

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

TO THE MEMBERS.

Now that the holiday season is drawing to its close, we would remind our members that we shall be grateful for any help which they can give us in connection with the various activities of the Association. Next month we propose to commence again to hold conferences on subjects of interest to nurses and there are large numbers of our members competent to contribute papers of high educational value. We shall be glad to receive the names of those who are willing to do so and, further, if any members will let us know of any subject on which they would like us to hold a conference we shall have pleasure in arranging for this.

THE TRAINED NURSES' ANNUITY FUND.

The Sale of Work for the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund will be held in November and Miss Isabel Macdonald, Hon. Secretary of the Fund, will be glad to receive gifts for this. A number have already been forwarded to the office but, up to the present, we have not received a sufficient quantity of work to ensure that the sale shall be as successful as that of last year. It is our desire to make this fund self-supporting by the profession for the profession, because public appeals on its behalf are likely to injure younger nurses who are still at work. Professional begging always leads to professional beggary and, while we fully realise that the claims of those who have fallen on evil days cannot be disregarded, we maintain that if every nurse in England would give even a small donation annually, they could very easily maintain their own benevolent schemes. We are arranging to have our sale of work rather late in the year in the hope that, as they did last year, the nurses will buy their Christmas presents at the sale.

THE R.B.N.A. MEMBERS CHRISTMAS CARD.

We propose to arrange to have a reproduction of the banner of the Association done in colour as a Christmas card. This will only be procurable from the Association's office and will be supplied to those only who belong to it, so that, in a sense, they will be able to regard it as a private card and by using it will be able to save themselves

the trouble of following what is the usual course of some of the members, having their own cards printed. It will be something of a novelty to send to their friends a card decorated with a reproduction of the beautiful banner and the crest of their Royal Corporation. As it is necessary that we should have some idea of the number of cards to be ordered we shall be glad to hear from the nurses what number they are likely to require. We have not yet been able to ascertain the exact cost of the cards but hope to have this information during the coming week.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FAILURE.

"What is truth?" asked Pilate. Fittingly on the same occasion, and at all times, might it have been asked, "What is failure"? Looked at in the perspective lent by the passage of time many of what appeared in their own age to be the greatest failures have proved to be brilliant achievements. And more striking still is the fact that very many of the best things gained for a nation, a community, or for some special class have been brought about by people whose lives from the personal point of view, were complete failures. On the other hand, how much may have been lost to the world by the disinclination of most individuals to face any effort or sacrifice of which the results may end in loss or failure from the personal point of view or of which the harvest to be reaped must lie in a far distant future beyond the limits of a lifetime of those who have sown the seed. The ancient Vedântist, with his clear vision and deep mystical understanding, was, in this respect, far ahead of present-day civilisation. He loved to seek life and estimate the values of life, not from the prisoned, introspective standpoint that takes account merely of the welfare of the individual. His vision and his dreams were of a longer range, and, even if he lived in obscurity, his aim was to play well his part in the upbuilding of the great, ancient Eastern civilisation. Much we may also learn from his views of the power of thought and will; an echo of his creed in this connection we find often in the writings of that most profound of modern mystics, Robert Browning, when he tells us, in his own beautiful way, that all we have dreamed, or willed or thought of good shall exist, not as mere semblance but as itself, that "when eternity affirms the conception of an hour" the beauty and the good will be found to

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