

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

**THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION**

## A STROLL THROUGH ANCIENT EGYPT.

A number of our members enjoyed a great treat on Saturday last when Miss Margaret Murray conducted them over the Egyptian Collection at University College, Gower Street. One of the first of the wonders pointed out to them was a very badly repaired fracture of a bone of an ancient Egyptian who had dropped this mortal coil not less than six thousand years before Christ. The collection of pottery came in for a considerable share of attention and, by pointing out certain features or peculiarities in different pieces, Miss Murray read a wonderful history from it of the parts of Egypt and the periods to which it belonged. Next to pottery she said that beads were the best historians, and from the long cases of wonderful, crude or beautiful specimens we learnt much of the races which inhabited Ancient Egypt at one time or another and much of their queer folk lore.

The collection of scarabs, which is the finest in the world, interested the nurses exceedingly, and we must not forget to mention the lovely gold and alabaster perfume bottles which belonged to Rameses II and his Queen Nerfertare, the mother of the Princess who found Moses.

## “STAND UPON THY FEET AND I WILL SPEAK UNTO THEE.”

Although we have twice recently been requested by members of the Association to insert an article in the Supplement on the subject of charity for Nurses, it is questionable whether very many of the members of the profession at large have given much thought to the subject or to the effect which the widespread exploitation of the nurses as objects of charity has upon their economic condition and, what is far more serious, upon their character and mentality as a class. There are some who, in the face of every discouragement, yet can see visions and dream dreams still, for the future of their profession, and when those visions are realised, when the day comes when the profession at last shall be possessed, as a whole, of those attributes of mind which make any profession great, what will be regarded as one of the greatest blots on its history will be the fact that so many

nurses have been perfectly placid in connection with the long advertisements for doles for them in the newspapers, perfectly placid as regards the flag days on their behalf in the streets and the long tin boxes which the public are asked to fill with pennies for the nurses! The great majority of them have viewed with equanimity the collection boxes passed round the sergeants' mess, round factory workers and others and not even from the "heads" of the profession has come one word of disapproval.

And what has been the net gain for the nurses? In two and a-half years £2,144 11s. 6d. has gone to those destitute nurses for whom a generous public subscribed, and nurses generally may, if they care to, share a club with other professional women who have never been called upon to tolerate the danger of being organised by their employers with money obtained by holding them up as objects of charity, too poor, and apparently too feeble-minded, to pay themselves for one of the most sacred things in communal life—their own organisation. But worse is to follow. It seems almost too terrible to believe that the nurses—or at least those who represent them on the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd.—have actually accepted, perhaps even asked for, a sum of money subscribed for sick and wounded soldiers—money which belongs morally and legally to those men who, many of them, have had all the joy of existence torn from them because they chose to fight for England, and for the women of England; men, many of them, into whose eyes the light of the sun will never fall again, men crippled and broken in health, men whose dependants are faced with despair because the breadwinner's strong right arm is "somewhere in France." However much we may dislike the truth, there is no denying the fact that the nurses have taken £50,000, from the British Red Cross Society, which by right belongs to such as these, in order that sufficient money might thereby be set free for their own pleasure and advancement. That is what it comes to, neither more nor less.

As to the reference, in the Report of the Nation's Fund for Nurses, to the Registration Act, we do not need to remind the R.B.N.A. members that the Act was never won by doles from the public, rather it was won *in spite of them*; for many of our members can tell from their banking accounts how great an impediment those doles proved to

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