

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## MATRON MARGARET GRAHAM, R.R.C.

Undoubtedly the best-known member of the nursing world in South Australia is Matron Margaret B. Graham, R.R.C., Matron-in-Charge of the Adelaide General Hospital. Matron Graham is generally supposed to have been born north of the Tweed, but, as a matter of fact, she hails from Cumberland, being a native of Carlisle. At a comparatively youthful age she went to South Australia to stay with an uncle, and in the early 'nineties she made up her mind to enter the nursing profession. She accordingly obtained admission to the Adelaide Hospital, and after undergoing the usual period of training was appointed to the position of Charge-Nurse. Then the post of Matron of the Institution having become vacant, Miss Graham put in an application for it, and was successful in receiving the appointment, which she has held ever since. Up to then no association existed in Australia for the advancement or protection of nurses, and having made herself familiar with the aims and objects of the

Royal British Nurses' Association, Miss Graham set about the foundation of a South Australian Branch of this distinguished Nurses' Corporation. There were seventeen original members, and

amongst the first to join were the whole of the charge-staff at the Adelaide Hospital. Lady Tennyson, the wife of the then Governor of South Australia, was the first Vice-President, and Miss

Graham was appointed Lady-Consul by the parent Association, a position she still fills. When the present King and Queen—then the Duke and Duchess of York—went to Australia in 1901, they took an opportunity of meeting all the members of the newly-formed Branch, and the interest they manifested in the organisation undoubtedly materially assisted in its advancement. As an instance of the popularity of the Branch Association, it may be mentioned that it now numbers over 500 nurse members, a large proportion of whom saw service in the Great War. In 1914, when the tocsin of war sounded, and the Nation summoned her sons and her daughters to her aid, Miss Graham was among the first to hear and respond to the call. When the Australian Army Nursing Service was inaugurated she, too, had been one of the first to join, and it was therefore not surprising that she should have hastened

to the Colours as soon as they were unfurled. In October, 1914, she left for Egypt on the "Ascanius," which formed one of the first fleet of forty ships which sailed from Australia for the seat



MISS MARGARET B. GRAHAM, R.R.C.  
LADY CONSUL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH, R.B.N.A.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)