

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

LETTER FROM HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRESIDENT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION.

78, Pall Mall,
April 5th, 1921.

MY DEAR NURSES,

As you are aware, we have, for some time, had in view a plan for establishing a Club in connection with your Association, a scheme in which I have taken a very great personal interest, and towards which you have been sending me your subscriptions. Just after your Association held an inaugural meeting, in connection with our proposals, at the Mansion House, circumstances arose which were of most vital importance to the profession as a whole, and your Council and administrative staff were compelled by those circumstances to devote their whole time, attention and energies to other matters. It was only during the latter part of the past year that we could again seriously turn our attention to the proposal to establish a Club. I had hoped to found a special club in connection with your Association, in some way related to the Helena Residential Clubs, which have proved so successful, but, while considering proposals for this, we learnt that Queen Mary's Hostel for Nurses was about to close down, as the beneficent and splendid work which it fulfilled during the war has ceased to be necessary. We approached the Committee of the Hostel, and I am happy to inform you that we have now been able to take over the lease of 194, Queen's Gate.

What I have now to announce will, I know, give you very great pleasure: the Committee of the Queen Mary's Hostel for Nurses have handed over the whole of the furniture and equipment there to the Chartered Association of Nurses, and I know how much you will welcome such a gift, as it will enable you to open your Club almost immediately. Most of you know some-

thing of the history of Queen Mary's Hostel for Nurses, and you will feel that, in a sense, you have become heirs to its great and beneficent traditions. There large numbers of nurses have met with much hospitality and kindness during the war, and my wish is that the Club, which is to be established as part of the work of your Association, will be indeed a real home from home for you all, as well as a great social centre for your profession. As you know, it has always been my particular wish that the Club which you proposed to establish should be available for all trained nurses, whether members of your Association or not, although the responsibility for its administration and continuance must fall upon the Association. On this account my Council and I consider that the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association should have some special privileges, possibly in connection with the sum which shall entitle them to Membership. I have to remind you that the expenditure for the rent and proper maintenance of such a large and beautiful house as that which we have acquired will be very considerable, but I am free from anxiety in this respect, for I know something of your independence and self-reliance from the manner in which you have maintained your benevolent schemes and paid for your organisation. I feel sure that I can rely upon each one of you to accept your share of responsibility by at once becoming a Member of the Club as soon as the conditions of membership are made known to you by my Council.

I hear from Sir Harold Boulton, Chairman of Queen Mary's Hostel for Nurses, that it is his wish and that of his Committee that the little brass plate, on the wall of one of the rooms, which commemorates the gift of £2,000 from the Australian Red Cross Society towards the equipment of the Hostel, shall remain as a permanent memorial of the gift, and of the work of the Hostel itself. This brings me to a matter to which I wish to draw your attention

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