

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

A VERY HANDSOME GIFT.

The beautiful Banner of the Badge of the Association—embroidered on a Royal blue ground—contributed for by a few Nurse Members of the Association—has now been mounted in a fine mahogany case, covered with glass, and hung in the Hall at the new Headquarters of the Royal Corporation—at 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. This very handsome gift has been donated by Miss C. Liddiatt, a most generous supporter of her professional Association, and will preserve for generations of members to come this lovely work of art embroidered at the Royal School of Art Needlework. All her fellow members owe Miss Liddiatt a warm vote of thanks for her munificence.

ENVIRONMENT.

A letter published in the current issue gives us some food for thought on the subject of the influences of environment. There is not the faintest doubt that, if not consciously, at least subconsciously at all times and in all places, environment is a force to be reckoned with. Its subconscious effect is insidious, unnoticed, but all the more powerful, therefore, in its influence throughout the life of any one of us. People who grope through life in sordid surroundings inevitably develop sordid characteristics, sordid qualities of mind, sordid habits of thought (or rather of lack of thought) which react most harmfully on their physical health, which change in time their whole personality, and which shut out from their vision, at last, all the originality and beauty that flows through the world's life.

One of the greatest tragedies which we see around us is the way in which many nurses have allowed their minds to die while they thought only of finding food and shelter for their bodies, and considered nothing of the penalty and loss of power and individuality involved by burrowing on in what one nurse appropriately described as her "orange box." True it was that the "orange box" was cheap, and the bed, table and chair there seemed to supply her material needs; for a time at least it played its part in helping her banking account to swell. But the little lady was not fitted to live alone, she lost touch with flow of life and to-day the time which she used to spend

with cases she spends in the "orange box," and *vice versa*. "So introspective, so full of herself and her affairs, always chatting of her own trials and problems," becomes the verdict of her patients and her friends.

We are all more or less chameleon like, nurses perhaps more so than others, because from the very nature of their work, their faculties of adaptability are forced overmuch, thus almost creating a tendency to take their mental attitude and characteristics from their surroundings and from those whom they contact. This makes it all the more necessary that those surroundings which play into their lives, when they have intervals of freedom, shall be such as will be likely to enable them to carry away with them influences which will keep them alert and happy, such influences as will act subconsciously in preventing them from growing, as so many have in the past, old, uninteresting, uninterested and unwanted, long before their time. It is that such influences may spread themselves throughout the profession that the Committee of the Club have made it their first consideration of all to see that the surroundings at the "home from home" are kept always beautiful, that the food is always good and always nicely served, and that every member of the domestic staff is of the type that gentlewomen are accustomed to have about them; that, in fact, the nurses will find something more than mere physical refreshment during the intervals between their undeniably strenuous work.

THE WHIST DRIVE.

It was a delightful evening that we spent at the Club on June 11th when, after coffee and cake (which were excellent) in the drawing room we played whist drive with some members of the Women's United Services Club, and two hours slipped only too quickly away. The first prize was won by Miss Jessie Holmes, while Miss Aughton and Miss MacVitie tied for the second, and Miss Desart and Miss Macdonald for the "booby." I hope that a return whist drive will take place soon at the United Services Club, and that the members of the R.B.N.A. who are whist players will rally. Nurses as we know are rather an uncertain quantity and their duty to the sick must come first, but it is the greatest gain to character to be able to win

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