

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

A GRACIOUS ACT.

THE AMY ELIZABETH GOOD ANNUITY.

We have received some exceedingly nice letters from the members in support of Miss Liddiatt's suggestion as to a new R.B.N.A. Annuity. Her Royal Highness the President, on learning of the nurses' proposal to found an Annuity to the memory of an "Unknown" nurse, has sent her commands that the money, already collected towards the third Princess Christian Annuity, shall be used instead as the first part of the sum required to found the "Amy Elizabeth Good Annuity." This gracious act on the part of their Royal President, showing the sympathy which she feels with the desire of the nurses to raise some sort of memorial to a lost comrade, will, we feel sure, meet with great appreciation.

We should be glad to receive the names of any nurses who are willing to take some part in the organisation and work required to found the annuity. The proceeds of the next sale of work, in so far as that work is given by the R.B.N.A. nurses, will be used for this purpose.

The members will be glad to learn that the second Princess Christian Annuity has been granted to an R.B.N.A. member who has spent most of her life doing mission work in Syria. She will never see the homeland again, but we know that she will enjoy her half-yearly cheque all the more because she feels that it brings a message of good will from her fellow-members of the Association to which she is so greatly attached.

ASSOCIATION OF TRAINED NURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH WORK.

METHODS OF COMBATING VENEREAL DISEASE.

On Saturday, 15th inst., Miss Evelyn Cancellor, Lecturer for the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Trained Nurses, lectured before the Association of Trained Nurses in Public Health Work on Methods of Combating Venereal Disease, at 10, Orchard Street, W. Miss Florence Wise, Chairman of the Association of Trained Nurses in Public Health Work, presided.

Miss Cancellor said that she wished to make it quite clear from the start that she was not speaking on that particular afternoon on behalf of *any* Society, but simply as a "nurse to nurses." Schools of thought are divided as to the best methods of preventing the spread of the disease, and three different societies are at work, each on the lines which seem to it best. One great point to recognise, in connection with all efforts to combat venereal disease, is that it is a contagious and communicable disease, and in giving instructions regarding it to a lay audience, it is often well to emphasise the point of the "possibility of accidental infection." If this is done, in giving instruction on Venereal Disease, people are much more likely to "own up" and to submit to treatment. In referring to such a possibility, a little tact has often a great effect in keeping the sympathy of an audience of lay people, and, in drawing attention to the chances of infection—say, from a towel or drinking cup—it is much wiser to use the words "If I contracted the disease from this" than to put the sentence in the second person and say "if you contract the disease," especially when recent discoveries have shown that both gonorrhœa and syphilis, if taken *in time*, and if the treatment is persevered in, are curable; in many clinics surprising results are being obtained, even in most advanced cases. Some rural areas have been almost exempt from Venereal Disease, but of late years many more cases have been apparent in them, and then the disease is generally of a very virulent type.

A great difficulty in the treatment of gonorrhœa in females is the lack of accommodation for such cases in hospitals. In some counties not a single bed is to be had, unless, perhaps, it may be in a Poor Law Infirmary.

In combating the disease, the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease devotes much of its teaching to the methods of self-disinfection of the male, and to the circulation of leaflets, giving instruction as to prevention, to men and youths; although they have also a pamphlet for women. The Society for the Promotion of Moral and Social Hygiene directs its campaign chiefly towards advocating purity of life and social and moral reforms. The Royal Commission on Venereal Disease has issued a very exhaustive report, and has done a tremendous work in the direction of enlarging our knowledge of facts in

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