

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## SALE OF WORK.

As we go to press we are making the last arrangements for holding our Sale of Work on the 7th inst., and most sincerely do we thank all who have sent gifts for it. It is worth all the trouble of organising the sale to find how great is the goodwill which exists in the hearts of the younger nurses towards those, many of them frail and aged now, who, in the days when the Settlement was founded, took a share in helping all the schemes which their Association found it good to undertake. Scarcely a parcel of gifts arrives unaccompanied by the expression of a wish that they might have been a hundred times more valuable, although often the cost of the materials themselves must have been considerable; the kindness and thought of the working members of the Association, for those who entered it in its pioneer days, brings a wonderful sense of refreshment into the atmosphere of political turmoil upon which the Association must enter at the present time in order to fight for the protection and progress of the younger nurses. But while those younger members are, by their generosity and kindness, saying "hats off" to founder members, we must not forget to acknowledge the generosity and *esprit de corps* of the latter. They have, by no means, sat with idle fingers, saying, "I helped to buy the Home. Now you may carry on." But, across the years, old and young join hands again in one of their works of benevolence. Into dainty gifts of silk and lace, or with busy knitting-needles, lifted in rare hours of leisure, has been woven the wonderful spiritual thread of that greatest of all things—love. And, when we think of this holy thing, rooted first in our earth, in its unselfish purity, two thousand years ago, our thanks to the nurses seem strangely inadequate.

There are members—many of whom we know—who see visions and dream dreams of the future of their Association, and we venture to say that not the least of its traditions will be those connected with its benevolent work. For, in days of prosperity and of adversity, through good report and ill, and throughout all the long work of organisation which has been made so needlessly slow, difficult and costly, the members of the Association have never set aside, even for a season, its benevolent

schemes, which have been organised and maintained not by public appeals for charity but by the co-operation, generosity and splendid independent spirit of the members themselves. We cannot express too warmly our admiration for those nurses who, by joining the Royal British Nurses' Association or one of the Societies organised by the nurses, have entered valiantly the ranks of the pathfinders, and, having set out on these glorious and rocky steeps, can still find time to stretch a helping hand to those who have grown grey on the road whereby we seek to lead our profession to the heights.

In this spirit do we co-operate in the work of making our Home for the Aged Nurses beautiful. Recently, when in communication with the architect, we were glad to hear that the cost of repairs and the proposed improvements is likely to be considerably less than we had led him to believe when he was first instructed to examine the house. Members will be pleased to know that he remarked that their house at Clapton Square is, in his opinion, a very valuable property because he finds it to be most substantially built, and, except for superficial repairs required, it is in very good condition indeed. Nevertheless, we hope that our members will not relax their efforts to help, as the more money we get the nicer we can make the home, while we have opportunity before its reoccupation. By the time that the JOURNAL reaches the members, H.R.H. the President will have declared the sale open, but we propose to continue it on Friday, the 8th inst.; and we hope that those nurses who are unable to attend on the opening day will make a point of coming between one and seven o'clock on Friday, the 8th inst.

## ANOTHER SPLENDID GIFT FOR THE CLUB.

We have received many gifts for the R.B.N.A. Club from time to time, but there is one to report this week which, we think, merits special notice. It has been given by Mrs. Kerr, who is well known to many of the members in London. In her early years she was one of Lord Lister's nurses, and when she comes to the Club it is usual to find a group of the younger members about her while she relates stories of the days when modern

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