

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

On March 12th, at 8 p.m., Miss J. Holmes read a paper on "Charles Dickens," which was very greatly enjoyed. Miss Holmes showed that she possesses that faculty, so valuable in a lecturer, of lifting her audience from the start, right into the atmosphere of her subject. She gave a very brief history of English literature up to the time of Dickens, and then we lived with Sarah Gamp—she was a living personality, retailing her confidences with Mrs. Harris; we saw the tumbrils in the streets of Paris; stood by Sydney Carton and the little seamstress; kept company with Mr. Micawber and laughed over the strange wooing of Barkis.

Miss Holmes gave an account of Dickens' early life and characteristics and mentioned various incidents which later found a place in his books. She drew a very attractive picture of the great author in the early days of his manhood. In all, Dickens wrote 23 books, the last of which, "Edwin Drood," was never finished; America offered £100,000 for the manuscript of it, but his son refused to sell it. Dickens was Queen Victoria's favourite author. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Miss Holmes, at the close of her lecture, read several of what she termed Dickens' "word paintings," which she described as being "so sharp, so vivid, so distinct and so clear that these word paintings of the men and women who live and move and have their being in his pages suffer little by being taken out of their original setting and dissociated from their future action."

During the discussion which followed, Miss Holmes made a very interesting remark when she gave it as her opinion that Dickens had done as much, if not more, than Florence Nightingale, to give modern nursing its impetus.

At the close of the lecture Miss Forbes moved a vote of thanks to Miss Holmes, and spoke very warmly of the treat which had been given to those present. Her motion was seconded by Miss Liddiatt and carried with enthusiasm.

Before she left a unanimous request was made to Miss Holmes that she should, on some future occasion, give a paper on "Dickens' Dream Children." We are glad to say Miss Holmes has promised to do so, and we look forward with pleasure to another evening with Dickens.

## RAMBLERS' CLUB.

On Wednesday, 11th inst., "The Ramblers" congregated at the Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese and enjoyed its Johnsonian fare, after which they examined certain Johnsonian relics, and then went over the strange cellars beneath the house, the remains of a monastery which was built before the Great Fire of London. It was surprising to think that the lovely little Gothic arches had been hidden here in the silence for hundreds of years under one of the busiest parts of the City. From the Cheshire Cheese we proceeded to Dr. Johnson's house, and loved its quiet atmosphere, its fine old prints and all its old cupboards and corners. Within the sound of the city's traffic and roar the garret where the great dictionary was written seemed like a delightful oasis. Next, St. Bride's, one of the Wren churches, was visited and admired, and then we repaired to St. Giles', Cripplegate, where some of us liked to wander round examining the quaint monuments, telling where good Christians had been sleeping for centuries, while others preferred to sit and quietly meditate in this lovely and ancient sanctuary. From St. Giles we walked the short distance to St. Bartholomew the Great to feast our souls and eyes on the beauty of this very ancient church; then outside its gates there was a general handshaking and "The Ramblers" dispersed to other parts of the city, each agreeing that they had enjoyed a most delightful and instructive afternoon in spite of the ill will of the weather clerk.

## FIXTURES AT THE CLUB.

On Friday, 20th inst., at 7.30 p.m., we are having a Whist Drive at the Club, and we hope that many members will join us.

On Monday, 23rd inst., at 8 p.m., there will be speeches (each of five minutes' duration), when the Literary and Debating Society meets. Each speaker will choose her own subject, and we hope that a number of members will take part because a meeting such as this is calculated not only to help towards a greater ease in expression, but also it should contribute towards the acquirement of knowledge on very various subjects and towards the faculty for weighing well every point of view and forming definite opinions quickly.

On Saturday, April 28th, at 8 p.m., Miss Kathleen Smith will give a lecture on Florence Nightingale, and Major Rigg (Chairman of the London Tem-

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