

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

**THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.**

## PRINCESS CHRISTIAN MEMORIAL FUND.

It has been decided to raise a memorial to our late beloved President and that it shall take the form of an Endowment Fund for the Club. The Princess always said that the establishment of the R.B.N.A. Club would be her last piece of work for the nurses, and it was one in which, up to the last few days of her life, she took a close personal interest. We feel therefore, that as members of the R.B.N.A., we should unite in an effort to complete her work by placing the Club on a secure basis through using all our efforts to raise soon "the Princess Christian Memorial Endowment Fund." This is what the Princess would have desired as she often expressed the wish that the Club would ultimately be endowed. Mrs. John Temple, M.R.B.N.A., has very generously promised to give £100 towards the Memorial Endowment Fund as soon as we collect £400 towards it. There are many ways in which the nurses can help to do so if they will put on their thinking caps.

### RECITAL.

On Saturday, November 10th, at 3 p.m., Miss Anderson Parsons will give a Recital at the Club, and we may look forward to a very real treat. We have not, up to the time of our going to press, received her programme, but we gather it is to be a very varied one. Doubtless there will be some of Kipling's poems, and we have all learnt to appreciate Miss Parsons' rendering of these. Recently in the drawing-room of the Club, when we were sitting round the fire, she recited some delightful Irish poems and character sketches and there has been a request that some of these will form part of the programme on the 10th.

The charges for admission will be 2s. and 1s., and we shall be glad to hear from those nurses who will undertake to sell tickets. Miss Parsons is giving the entertainment in aid of the Princess Christian Memorial Fund.

## LECTURING AS A BRANCH OF NURSING WORK.

During recent years a very considerable number of nurses have taken up lecturing as a field of work, and there is no doubt that, were they all more awake to the opportunities which exist in this direction,

it might become a most important branch of the nursing profession and open up great possibilities for those who have any aptitude for this work, while, at the same time, by entering upon it they would help others by thinning the ranks of those who are competing for posts of another kind. At the present time the majority of lectureships on Nursing, Health, First Aid, and Infant Care are held by lady doctors, women with Health Visitors' Certificates, and others who have had no practical experience in nursing whatever. That this should be so is certainly a matter for regret, as there is no doubt that there are quite a sufficient number of nurses to meet the demand, who are possessed of adequate education and of the particular qualities required for such work. It seems sad that they should allow others to step into their shoes so frequently, when a little energy and enterprise might enable them to undertake employment of such a very progressive and interesting nature.

One nurse who gives lectures occasionally tells us that the greatest difficulty lies "in getting used to your own voice," and, doubtless, a large number of others would feel this to be the chief impediment in their pathway to a platform career. But the difficulty can be overcome like all other difficulties when one comes to close quarters with it, and with sufficient resolution to overcome it. Viewed from a distance a difficulty which arises merely from diffidence grows in dimensions, and ultimately becomes a bogie that defeats one by its shadow alone. But how to overcome it is the question, and it was very largely with a view to helping nurses in this direction that we started our Debating Society last year. Unfortunately we got very little encouragement to proceed with it, for, almost every evening, the same little group rose to speak, while the majority were content to be the listeners. Yet it is only by practice such as this that one will get rid of the self-consciousness which makes public speaking difficult, and those who have any idea of taking up lecturing as a career should face this fact and lose no opportunity of getting used to "the sound of their own voices." Then, if one does persistently force oneself to speak in public whenever opportunity offers, the day comes when one is suddenly conscious of the fact that it really involves no greater effort to speak to the multitude than to the group.

But the faculty to express oneself is not the only benefit which arises from such practice.

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