

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## THE CHRIST MASS.

By the time our next Supplement falls due the Christmas season will be upon us and so we take this opportunity to convey to members of the Association our sincere good wishes that they may have a very happy time and that into their hearts there may pour that mystical beauty and holiness inseparably associated with the Christmas time, this festival which comes when the material beauty of the earth is hidden and locked in the grip of the winter. Good men of ancient days, men largely responsible for the advancement of Western culture, men possessed of marvellous gifts of insight into spiritual things, saw very profound meaning in the coming of the Christ Mass during the Winter Solstice when the earth has absorbed the forces of life into herself. And, with deeper meaning still, ecclesiastical Rome fixed the Christ Mass for January 6th, commemoration day of the Baptism in Jordan. It was a more materialistic conception that, in the fourth century, changed the date of Christmas to December 25th, commemoration day of the birth of Jesus. But it matters little whether man regards the birth of the Child Jesus or the Spirit of God Descending as the greater event, so long as he enters upon the festival which celebrates those two events with, in his heart, the remembrance of the mission Christ gave to this earth, the mission to develop love as a great force in the Universe. Of the many festivals which have been set up as reminders and have stood throughout the ages, Christmas is pre-eminently the festival of Love and Goodwill, and, if Easter is to be regarded as a time of resurrection, as a time when new life flows forth from the earth, so may Christmas be regarded as a time of remembrance not merely of our friends in the world to-day, but as a time of remembrance and union with an older humanity, a time when we realise that, however far we may be yet from the realisation of the visions of the Christian seers of bygone centuries, however the pathway of the centuries may be strewn with their broken hopes, however bitter may have been the doubts that have cast their shadows across men's faith, yet still, at the Christmas festival, there comes to our hearts the knowledge that mighty forces have descended to Earth from powers that are good and true and that, by keeping our Christmas festival in the spirit of good

will, we make of ourselves points whereon such powers can focus and radiate beneficent forces towards mankind.

## ELECTIONEERING.

A number of members have been very busy during the past week canvassing in support of Major Barnett and their hopes of his return to the House of Commons have been raised by their experiences, for Major Barnett enjoys great popularity in his constituency. It takes some courage to set out with the intention of bringing people down to their doors on these cold mornings, but, with rare exceptions, the nurses have been received most kindly. In many cases, where the voter had no decided views on politics, we were told in the most kindly way, "Of course, if the nurses want him we will help him along. I had a child in hospital and the ladies were very kind to him"; or "My good man, he was in hospital and you were good to him, so you were, so you'll get *my* vote sure enough this time, Protection or no Protection." On more than one occasion we were given a hearty invitation to drink a cup of tea before going on to the next house. One Irish nurse renewed the acquaintance of a patient whom she had nursed nearly twenty years ago in Galway and a hearty handshaking ensued with many reminiscences; the vote was a sure thing after that. A Scotch nurse who is staying at the Club became quite an enthusiastic canvasser and certainly a very thorough one. As we went from house to house she had evidently been under the observation of a gentleman who was canvassing the opposite side of the street for he came over with an amused smile, saying, "Well, she does mean to get in anyhow." But her pertinacious knocking was not always followed by pleasant results, for one lady arrived with, "Well, you can make a noise, can't you?" and another with a peremptory and inhospitable "Hook it!" But this is all in the day's work and all those who set out on electioneering work appear to be abundantly supplied with that wonderful antidote to any unpleasantness or discomfort—a sense of humour. Anyhow, we hope that their work may bear fruit and that Major Barnett will be returned to the House with a very large majority. We are very grateful indeed to those nurses who came forward

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