

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

MEMORIAL TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE LATE PRINCESS CHRISTIAN

MEETING AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

There was a great muster of the Royal British Nurses' Association's Members at the Mansion House on May 22nd to inaugurate a Memorial to the first President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, Her Royal Highness the late Princess Christian; many could not find sitting accommodation, but this did not appear to affect their enthusiasm and interest in the proceedings. When Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught, the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, the Speakers, the Hon. Officers of the Association and a number of friends of the late Princess had arrived on the platform the audience rose and sang the first verse of the "National Anthem." The Lord Mayor then addressed those present as follows:—

"It affords me great pleasure to extend the hospitality of the Mansion House to the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association that they may pay a tribute to the memory of one who for the long period of over fifty years was such a prominent figure in the social and philanthropic life of the nation, and President of the Royal British Nurses' Association for thirty-five years, an Association in which she took a deep and personal interest. Princess Christian was ever ready to give her patronage and support to every good work and her practical and sympathetic activities on behalf of the Nursing Profession will long be remembered. I am also glad of the opportunity of offering the City's welcome to your new President, the Princess Arthur of Connaught, and of expressing the hope that Her Royal Highness may have a long and happy association with your Royal Corporation."

The Lord Mayor read letters of regret for absence from the platform from Archdeacon Holmes and Miss Margaret Bondfield; Mr. Lloyd George also wrote regretting his inability to attend. Archdeacon Holmes wrote that, had he been present, as he had intended, he would have dwelt principally on the most important though less obvious work which Princess Christian did for England. Perhaps only those who knew her well could appreciate this unseen work which the public knew nothing about. Her country always came first in her thoughts, both in private and in public life. "If England knew all she did we should double the gratitude which we already feel for such a long life of unsparing devotion to duty. If ever there was an example of practical patriotism, it was the example set by Her Royal Highness, year in year out, and I hope that we shall do something great to pay off part, at least, of our indebtedness to her in an equally practical manner."

Miss Margaret Bondfield wrote that she was particularly interested to know that the Club would have facilities for developing the social and intellectual interests of the nurses, and expressed the hope that the Meeting would launch a

most successful campaign in fulfilment of the task the Association had set itself to do. She was greatly in sympathy with the nurses' endeavour to raise a lasting memorial to a loyal and devoted President.

H.R.H., the President, next spoke, and warmly thanked all those who were present for having come to support the scheme. It was one, said Her Royal Highness, to which the Princess Christian would have given her unqualified approval.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain then moved the following Resolution:—

"That this Meeting cordially approves of the scheme for a Memorial to Her Royal Highness the late Princess Christian, First President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and will endeavour in every way to carry it out and to further its success."

Mr. Chamberlain paid an eloquent tribute to the memory of the late Princess. Two qualities pre-eminently characterised her greatness—she had a very kind heart; those in trouble were always certain of her sympathy, and equally they were assured that she would rejoice with them in times of good fortune. Then Princess Christian had in a very high degree a sense of the obligation that belongs to those who are Members of the Royal House. This characteristic was one which belonged to all the children of Queen Victoria. Princess Christian was essentially English, and so many were her activities, so many and so generous her benevolent works of all kinds that it was really difficult to choose a suitable object as a Memorial to her; but that before the Meeting to-day was one which would commend itself to her family, and one which would prove of lasting benefit to a section of the community in which the Princess had taken a very particular interest. Mr. Chamberlain hoped that those present would do their utmost to see that the Memorial was one worthy of that great lady who, born to the highest sphere, formed one of a family who were ever ready to give of their best to every genuine need of any section of the nation. Princess Christian had always been ready to give of herself for every good cause. She had indeed the highest devotion to her Country, and in her we had a great example of the greatness that made the British Throne safe when other thrones, in these troublous years, were shaken.

The Dowager Countess of Jersey, in seconding the Resolution, said that everyone present in the audience that afternoon knew that when the Princess Christian gave her name and patronage to an object she gave her whole soul and brain to promote its development. Her Royal Highness had a great brain, a great power for work and a great devotion to duty. The Countess referred in eloquent words to the part which she had played in the development of nursing, and pointed out contrasts between the position of nursing at the time when the Princess and she were young and that which it had reached now. The medical men were the first to acknowledge that, in serious cases, recovery often depended more on the skill and devotion of the nurse than

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)