

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

THE FIRST VISIT OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRESIDENT TO THE ASSOCIATION'S HEADQUARTERS.

The Club was crowded to its utmost capacity when on Thursday, February 21st, members of the Royal British Nurses' Association gathered to welcome their new President, H.R.H. the Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N. Just before the arrival of the President came H.H. the Princess Marie Louise, and we appreciate her kindness to the Association in being present on this occasion, which must have held much sadness for her because of all the memories connected with that great presence which passed from us little more than half-a-year ago. Indeed, it augured no lack of goodwill to the new President of the Royal British Nurses' Association that often, during the afternoon in the crowded drawing-room at Queen's Gate, tears would spring to many eyes lifted to where, over the mantelpiece, hung the large portrait of H.R.H. the late Princess Christian, and many thoughts went out to her from those gathered to welcome the Princess Arthur to her great office in the Association.

H.R.H. looked radiant and smiling as she stepped lightly across the portals of 194, Queen's Gate. She was received by the Honorary Officers and several members of the Executive Committee. Miss Annice Gray, R.R.C., on behalf of the members, presented to H.R.H. a beautiful bouquet of pink carnations and asparagus fern. In the Council Chamber a number of members and friends of the Association had the honour of being presented to the Princesses, and then we went upstairs to the drawing-room, where many more members were waiting to welcome their President. In accordance with the wishes of H.R.H. the proceedings were quite informal; a large number of the nurses were presented and the Princess talked pleasantly with them. Miss Violet Rice, M.R.B.N.A., who possesses that rare gift, a wonderful and highly-cultivated voice, sang two songs, which everyone greatly enjoyed, and conversation commenced again. Just before going into the lounge for tea H.R.H. expressed a wish that Miss Rice should sing again and we listened to the lovely words and music of "Caro Mio Ben." After the song was over the Princesses sent for Miss Rice, and said some charming things about her singing. Tea was served in the lounge and dining-room and afterwards by special request the ladies from the Settlement Home were presented to H.R.H. and were delighted to hear the Princess say that some day she would pay a visit to the Home. Also on the request of H.R.H. several early members of the R.B.N.A. were presented.

Telegrams of congratulation were received from the Marchioness of Ailsa, President of the Scottish Nurses' Club and from the Professional Union of Trained Nurses.

When the President descended the staircase the hall was lined by the members, who gave three hearty cheers for the new President as she passed to her carriage.

THE PRESCRIBED SCHEME FOR THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

A communication has been sent to the Minister of Health from the Royal British Nurses' Association urging that, when the Prescribed Scheme for the Election of Members of the General Nursing Council receives his consideration, it will be so amended as to secure to the nurses the right to elect any nominated Registered Nurses they please to fill the eleven seats on the General Nursing Council, reserved for representatives of those on the General Part of the Register. At the present time six seats are reserved for Matrons, and the remaining five may be filled by either Matrons or Nurses.

The Royal British Nurses' Association also urges that twenty-one instead of seven days may be secured for the return of Voting Papers; and that Clause 8 (2), which gives the Returning Officer absolute power and completely exonerates him from any responsibility for any irregularity or illegality which may be perpetrated in the course of the Election, may be omitted.

THE ANNUAL DANCE.

The dance which took place at the Club on February 1st was a complete success, and we never appreciated more the immense improvement made by erecting a movable partition, in place of the fixed one, between the drawing-room and the large room behind it. As it began to appear that we might have a large party, the dining room carpet was removed at the last moment, and we were glad that this had been done, for several times the dancers found it advisable to "overflow" into the dining room, though, after two "eightsome reels," several of our guests displayed considerably less energy than earlier in the evening. Several Scottish gentlemen came in all the glory of full Highland dress, with its swinging tartan and blazing cairngorms. One of them had the forethought, too, to bring his bagpipes, and the "Scotties" present thoroughly enjoyed hearing their strains in our London home, and listened, with some perplexity, to the questionable compliments of their English fellow-members, who, with a certain diffidence, repeated again and again the remark, "They must be fine *in the distance* and among the hills." We believe that our next door neighbours in Queen's Gate were much of the same opinion, for the night was no longer young. Anyhow, our English friends quite enjoyed watching the Highland Reels and more especially the Highland Fling, most beautifully danced by Mr. Taylor.

But these were just interludes in a long evening's dancing, for which the music was supplied by the Imperial Dance Orchestra, under the able directorship of Mr. F. V. Hooley. Everyone congratulated us upon the splendid music they provided, which did so much to make our annual dance a thorough success. In the lounge, plenty of good fare was provided, and between dances we could enjoy conversation and ices, trifle, coffee, and such like things.

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