

The gentlemen present evidently thought that the enjoyment of the evening could be best safeguarded by taking charge of the telephone themselves, and a horrified secretary heard it answered in such a manner as the R.B.N.A. telephone certainly never has been before, "Want a nurse, a nurse to-night? Of course you can't have a nurse. *There's a ball on.*" And there was a shout of triumph round that same discomfited secretary, when the reply came back, "A ball do you say? Well, of course, I can't, and a happy evening to you all."

When we thought all had gone, we slipped downstairs to see to the lights, and just at the top of the first flight witnessed the last act in the evening's drama. In the hall was a certain Fairy Godfather of the Club, whom, throughout the evening, we had treated with all proper and studied respect; he was surrounded by a group of laughing nurses, and was dancing with energy, not to say with desperation. We watched him meditatively. Yes; it was true that only "soft drinks" had been provided. Could this be some Indian war dance or had a cinder from the hall fire landed in overclose proximity to him? What could this pirouetting mean on the part of the dignified patron of the R.B.N.A. Club? Then came a glimmering of the truth, and we joined in the gay laughter of other witnesses of the solo dance. He was *trying* to dance the Highland Fling!

LECTURES

On Saturday, February 9th, His Excellency Mr. Cha Hsin Chu gave a lecture on "The Backbone of the Chinese Nation," and Miss Claridge took the chair.

Mr. Hsin Chu spoke chiefly of the beauty of the Chinese family system and all that it stood for in national life. The great watchword in the homes was tolerance and many generations often lived together in one house. In one case nine generations were living in the same house and were visited by the Emperor, who congratulated them on this. The Chinese have a great respect for their teachers; their masters in the schools are treated as people of the greatest importance at all national and social gatherings. But filial affection is the chief feature of the Chinaman's life, and the lecturer told an amusing story of a son who wept because his father's chastisement had been less severe than usual, and when questioned as to why this should be, he replied that he feared that, at the age of seventy-three, his parent's physical strength was beginning to show signs of decline.

Mr. Hsin Chu's remarks on infant care led to some discussion. He said that there were many people in China who never remembered having tasted milk. He himself did not until he was in America, and when he was twenty-one years of age, and milk was never used as part of the national dietary. When the mothers no longer nurse their babies the latter are given rice and rice-water, fruit, and so on and this answered well.

Mr. Hsin Chu also spoke of the interest now being taken in nursing in China and referred to the fact that two nurses had come to England to gain experience in an English hospital.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer, Miss Lord referred to the fact that the Association of Nurses in China was affiliated to the International Council of Nurses. Lord Headley, in seconding the vote of thanks, caused some amusement by saying that he had found the Scotch and the Chinese singularly alike, and the reason he said this was that he had never in a wide experience met with either a Scotchman or a Chinaman whom he found to break his word.

In her closing the meeting the chairman, in a few appreciative words to Mr. Hsin Chu's work in connection with the League of Nations and as Minister for China in London.

THE RAMBLERS' CLUB.

The Ramblers had a long and delightful day at the Zoological Gardens on February 16th. In spite of the cold quite a fair number joined us at the main entrance or, in the course of the day, in the Gardens. Everyone agreed that it made all the difference in the world to visit them under the guidance of one so well able to extract for us every possible enjoyment from the expedition as Miss Anderson Parsons, F.R.Z.S., proved herself to be. Mr. Montagu Price and Dr. Morrison most kindly supplied us with a large number of Fellows' tickets, so that we had a big amount of pleasure at a small amount of cost. We arrived with all sorts of inelegant parcels and packages as tokens of goodwill for our friends in the Gardens. Space will not permit us to describe in detail the events of the day, but we certainly came away with very enlarged ideas on the friendly relationships which can exist between mankind and the animal world.

First of all there was the extraordinary kindness of the keepers to the animals, and also their never-failing courtesy in helping us to make the most of our afternoon; but what impressed us more than anything was the way in which they welcomed Miss Anderson Parsons as an old friend. It was the same everywhere we went. The white polar bears heard her voice before they saw her, and came down from their artificial rocks to see her. A great brown bear actually took pieces of bread from her lips, while another stood on its hind legs to receive her gifts. Huge lions and tigers laid themselves down and allowed her to stroke them and rub their necks. The monkeys became wildly excited especially when they felt she was paying more attention to one than another, and even the old parrots and birds had their own methods of welcoming their friend. It was indescribably delightful to witness it all, and a long day seemed to have been all too short when we reluctantly bade good-bye to our friends in the Zoo. We had, at midday, a pleasant impromptu lunch in the restaurant in the Gardens, and, just before the time for departure, a medical member of the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. arrived to look us up and take us all to tea.

CLUB FIXTURES.

MAGNA CARTA.

On Saturday, March 1st, at 3 p.m., Mrs. Helena Normanton Barrister-at-Law, will give a lecture on Magna Carta. We feel sure that those members who take a keen interest in their Association will wish to be present. Magna Carta was the first great Charter, and was obtained from King John in 1215 to secure to the people certain fundamental rights and privileges; it was the establishment of this, the greatest of all Charters, that the custom of granting Royal Charters, from time to time, arose. Such Charters have been conferred much less frequently since the establishment of the Board of Trade, which has powers to give to bodies of people and to groups engaged in commercial enterprises, rights to incorporate as limited liability companies with or without permission to leave out of their title the word Limited, as the Board may determine. We have no doubt that when our Members have listened on March 1st to all the information which Mrs. Normanton has to give us they will be still more proud of their most precious possession—their Association's Royal Charter of Incorporation granted by Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria. We shall have the Charter on view so that Mrs. Normanton and others interested in the lecture may see it.

Other club fixtures, which are crowded out, will be found under "Coming Events," page 64.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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