

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

THE TRAINED NURSES' ANNUITY FUND.

Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association will learn with pleasure that Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught, President of the Association, has graciously consented to accept the position of President of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, an office held by the late Princess Christian.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE SCOTTISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A kind message of congratulation has been received by the Executive Committee from the Scottish Nurses' Association on the appointment of H.R.H. the Princess Arthur of Connaught as President of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

PRESENTATION TO MISS PELL SMITH.

At a meeting of the Leicester and Leicestershire Midwives' Association, Miss Pell Smith was presented with a beautifully engraved spectacle case. The gift was quite unexpected, and is a token of appreciation, from the members of the above-mentioned Association, of the work of Miss Pell Smith, who is chiefly responsible for the very flourishing condition of the Association at the present time.

Miss Pell Smith is planning to join the Anglo-Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which leaves London on April 29th, arriving at Jaffa on May 7th, and proceeds by motor to Jerusalem, where, at the Mount of Olives, the English Bishop in Jerusalem and his staff will welcome the pilgrims, and in the Holy City itself and at Bethlehem His Holiness Damianos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, will receive them. Jericho, the Jordan, the Dead Sea, Jacob's Well at Samaria, the plain of Jezreel, Nazareth, the Lake of Tiberias, and Cana of Galilee will also be visited. Those who know Miss Pell Smith know well how greatly she will enjoy this Adventure of Faith, entering into it in the devout spirit of the true Crusader.

LECTURE.

On Saturday, March 1st, Mrs. Helena Normanton, Barrister-at-Law, gave a most interesting lecture on "Magna Charta." Miss Margaret Breay occupied the chair.

Mrs. Normanton gave an account of the events which led up to the grant of Magna Charta, and thereby we had a most fascinating glimpse into old English History. The Norman Conquest had proved a blessing in disguise, for it provided England with a fine dynasty of kings, characterised by grit and vision. Henry II, in particular, had splendid kingly qualities, and he left four sons of whom two, Richard and John, were Kings of England. The reign of the latter was disastrous in many respects, but out of a dispute between him and his Barons about the appointment of an Archbishop, the intervention of the Pope was brought about, and the latter took a step which

influenced the whole future of England and her liberties. He appointed Stephen Langton, formerly a Doctor of Law in the University of Paris, to the vacant Archbishopric. Mrs. Normanton then mentioned some of the events in history which led up to the grant of the great Charter of Rights, and we learnt how much we are indebted to Stephen Langton, whose vision, courage and foresight, knowledge of law, and singleness of purpose laid the foundation of the prosperity and freedom of England. Mrs. Normanton's picture of King John was anything but a happy one, but one good point he did have—he was entirely free from sex prejudice; various anecdotes were told to prove this. John feared certain women, while in other cases he put a very high value on their services, one of them acting as Sheriff and practically ruling a great portion of the East of England for many years.

Mrs. Normanton next described how Stephen Langton and the Barons drew up Magna Charta, marched to London, which opened its gates to the baronial army, and then they pressed on to Runnymede, where they met King John and his army. There the King was compelled to agree to the terms of the Charter. He did not sign it, as is generally believed, it was only sealed. On Magna Charta all the liberties of the English people are based, and yet few show any great interest in it, although in the United States our Magna Charta is almost worshipped. A copy is to be found hung in every school there, and it is doubtful whether one copy could be found in any one of our English schools, though it stands like a grand old rock still, the great protection of a people's liberties, for long generations. Never shall we fully realise the debt due to Stephen Langton, and yet his memory has been treated with consistent neglect. Men like Fox and Pitt are pigmies beside him. The Charter he secured is as alive as ever, it is the most living thing in England to-day, and is constantly being invoked in the Courts of Law.

On being shown our own Royal Charter Mrs. Normanton characterised this as a descendant of Magna Charta, and indicated many most interesting points of similarity between them, telling the nurses that they ought to be most intensely proud of such a document.

A vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Mrs. Campbell Thomson, seconded by Miss Cattell, and carried, and then we all descended for tea, where, informally, we continued to discuss the delinquencies of John and the far-reaching influence of the first great Charter.

AN AFTERNOON WITH KIPLING.

We had a truly delightful afternoon on Saturday, March 22nd, when Miss Anderson Parsons gave her "Kipling Recital" in aid of the Helena Benevolent Fund. She fairly lifted us all into the atmosphere of his poetry, and taught us to appreciate more and more this wonderful writer of modern times.

Sister A. E. Macdonald, in proposing a vote of thanks, said: Miss Parsons proved herself a delightful raconteuse

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)