

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## DEPARTURE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR INDIA.

On December 6th Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught took her departure with Prince Arthur for a visit to India, which will extend over several months. Miss Cattell, Mr. Paterson and Miss Macdonald were on the platform to convey to the President the good wishes of the Members of the Association, and their hope that she may have a very enjoyable visit. On behalf of the Association Miss Cattell presented Princess Arthur with a beautiful bunch of pink roses.

## 1925.

We offer to the members our sincere good wishes for the New Year. May it bring to all of them much happiness and prosperity in all their undertakings. The great task that lies before us for the coming year is that of getting ahead with the Princess Christian Memorial Scheme. The Council and Committee can take a lead in this, but it is not to be forgotten that the great driving force for it must come from the energy, enterprise and generosity of the members themselves. Everyone can, during the year, do something, no matter how small, towards getting a brick into the walls of the new home, and we most earnestly ask that each member will see to it that, before the close of the year, she has done something or another to help it forward. We hear that one nurse will undertake to get up a concert at the club, another, we learn, is painting a picture which is to be sold for the benefit of the memorial, a few others plan to get up a little "cake and candy sale," while still another has promised to collect a certain sum. We thank them all very sincerely and hope that others will follow their good example.

The last few months have been more than usually full, with entertainments, lectures, meetings, &c., so that it has been decided not to commence the usual programme of club fixtures so early in the year as we generally do. By the close of the first week in the year, however, the first list of arrangements will be complete and can be obtained on application to the secretary.

## CHRISTMAS AT HEADQUARTERS.

We have never met people who possessed a greater ability to throw themselves into the pleasure and business of keeping Christmas than the members of the R.B.N.A. Club. Although fewer were in residence than usual this year, and only twenty-five sat down to dinner, there was plenty of hilarity and amusement then and throughout the day, while the masses of parcels which daily collected in the hall, for quite a week before, served to remind us that few people are so rich in friendships as nurses, friendships that seem to overflow with love and goodwill if material evidences are to be relied upon.

Nearly a week before Christmas there appeared in the hall a nice, green tree and, by Christmas night it was laden with Christmas fruit. Among bright crackers, brilliantly-coloured balls, candles and other sorts of decoration there was a growth of mysterious brown parcels which provided plenty of pleasure and amusement when we shook up numbers in a basket and drew for prizes after Christmas dinner.

Several members, not in residence, "blew in" for Christmas tea, and later, thanks to the kindness of Mrs. John Temple and Mr. Montagu Price, D.L., we enjoyed a perfectly splendid Christmas dinner. We expect that there were few Christmas tables in London round which there was greater merriment, and to judge from the number of toasts that were honoured, we were not lacking in the season's goodwill. After the "health unto His Majesty," Miss Macvitie, the oldest member present, proposed the health of "the new, young President," and expressed the hope that we might soon have her back in England again. Miss Elma Smith then proposed the toast of "Members across the Seas and other absent friends," and this was responded to by Miss Theobald from the Federated Malay States. The members of the R.B.N.A., the members of the administrative staff, of the different private nursing co-operations, whose members meet so often at Queen's Gate, the domestic staff of the club all received individual expressions of goodwill and good wishes and the toasts were rounded up by one to the cook, who was forcibly imported into the dining-room and had to respond to a demand for a speech, perhaps not the least arduous of the many demands upon her that day.

The banner was on duty, as on all great occasions, and, thanks to large supplies of holly and evergreens procured by members from friends in the country, the house was suitably decorated; the dinner table was beautiful with a wealth of flowers, mostly gifts from members of the Club. After dinner and the Christmas tree the energetic started dancing, while more sober-minded folk got round a bridge table or comfortably settled in easy chairs, to watch the dancing or the pranks of certain members who shall be nameless. Oh yes, we had mistletoe, too, of course, but, as to what happened under that, for information you must apply to Mr. Paterson and Dr. Morison, perhaps they will continue the narrative "in our next."

## HOGMANAY.

The festivities of the year 1924 were not to be allowed to close with Christmas night, for the Scotch nurses in the Club repeated their hospitality of last year at midnight on December 31st. Miss Macvitie organised this celebration, when the Old and the New Year meet, a sufficient guarantee that it was observed after the most approved Scotch fashion.

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