

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## LECTURE.

JOHN HUNTER.

On Saturday, April 11th, Sir D'Arcy Power gave us a splendid lecture on that famous Scotchman, John Hunter. It was particularly interesting because there were put on the screen a series of contemporary portraits of John Hunter and pictures connected with various episodes in his career. Sir D'Arcy said that, while reading the proofs of the Life of the late Sir William Osler, it was mentioned that he had just missed buying an illuminated edition of the life of Hunter, by Jesse Foot. The Museum authorities of the College of Surgeons did not know of the work, but eventually Sir D'Arcy discovered that it had been sold at Sotheby's, and ultimately he traced it to a firm in Wigmore Street. Mr. Jesse Foot was a contemporary of John Hunter, but there were very frequent differences between the two, and the result was that a good many of the pictures in the book were caricatures of the famous surgeon; the originals in water-colour were bound in two large volumes which were so heavy that only one could be lifted at a time.

When John Hunter came to England at the age of seventeen he could neither read nor write, yet, besides being a pioneer in clinical surgery, he became an eminent philosopher and ranked high as a zoologist, botanist and geologist, he was a writer of no mean ability and a collector of great versatility. Perhaps the most prominent features in his character were his extraordinary "grit" and his wonderful capacity for work. These and his ability had made him the most remarkable figure in the history of medicine.

John Hunter dined at four in the afternoon, slept for an hour, and then dictated to his Secretary until midnight; when the latter had retired Hunter continued at work in his study until three or four in the morning, and, at six a.m., he was again dictating notes many of which, by accident or design, were destroyed after his death.

In many respects Hunter was eccentric as, for instance, when he drove a trap, drawn by buffaloes, through Piccadilly; presumably the traffic was less congested then. His work lay largely in research relating to venereal disease. He deliberately inoculated himself to ascertain whether the different types of the disease were due to a single poison; as a result of his experiment he suffered from the disease for the remainder of his life. Hunter's treatment for aneurism constitutes another of his claims to greatness.

Sir D'Arcy Power closed his lecture by advising the nurses present to make a point of visiting the Hunterian Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields, one of the most unique collections in London.

Miss Helen Pearse, on behalf of the audience, thanked Sir D'Arcy for his exceedingly interesting lecture.

## CONCERT.

On Monday, April 27th, we had another delightful Concert at the Club arranged by Mrs. Atherton Earp, a member of the Association. The programme was exceedingly varied, and the artistes were all very good. Miss

Kathleen Eager, who has a beautiful voice, sang several fine songs; she took part in the Concert by the permission of the Brighton School of Music. Very delightful indeed were the little fairy stories and poems about animals, and also Robert Southey's "Bishop Hatto," which were recited by Miss Grace Rose. The music for these had been composed and was played by Miss Emma Lomax, music which was most wonderfully in sympathy with the feeling in the poetry. Sometimes we really did feel that we had entered the world of fairyland or that we participated in the quaint little cogitations of the animals. Miss Sybil Campbell, who was at the piano, and Miss Ivy Palmer, with her violin, are musicians of a high order, and altogether the Concert was pronounced a very great success. The money arising from the sale of tickets is to go towards the House Beautiful Fund.

## DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE OF "MR. PIM PASSES BY."

On Friday, March 27th, we had at 194, Queen's Gate, a delightful performance of "Mr. Pim Passes By," in aid of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, by Mr. Tom Lovegrove's Company. Members will remember that we had a somewhat similar treat last year when Members of this Company played "Eliza Comes to Stay." The part of Mr. Pim was taken by Mr. Tom Lovegrove, and he certainly made the most of this really rather delightful old gentleman. All the actors were so good that it was impossible to draw comparisons. Between the various acts the Merrimacs Orchestra played selections, and altogether we had a very enjoyable programme indeed. The play was produced at Queen's Gate through the instrumentality of Miss Cattell, who takes such a kindly interest in our benevolent funds.

## "ISABEL, EDWARD AND ANNE."

On Wednesday, May 6th, at 8 p.m., the Royal British Nurses' Association will present "Isabel, Edward and Anne" in aid of the Funds of the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases. The play will take place in the out-patient department of the Hospital. Tickets for admission, prices 5s., 3s. 6d. and 2s. 6d., can be had on application to the Matron of the West End Hospital, 73, Welbeck Street, W.1, or from the Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

## ENGLISH POTTERY AND PORCELAIN.

On Saturday, May 2nd, at 3 p.m., Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson will give a talk on "English Pottery and Porcelain and other Antiques." There is no greater authority on this subject than Mrs. Hodgson, and we are looking forward to Saturday when she will take us through many of the experiences that help to make up the fascinating pursuits of collectors; we shall gain much valuable information about the artistic treasures of old English Arts and Crafts.

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