

Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson asks us to invite those who expect to be present, to bring any pieces of old pottery or china they may possess, and she will discuss the various pieces and give information in connection with each.

#### THE TRAINED NURSES' ANNUITY FUND.

The accounts of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund show a satisfactory year. The interest on investments is increased by £36. There is a small drop of £2 in the annual subscriptions, but a very large increase in the donations received. A further sum of £800 has been invested during the year, the income of which will be used for annuities.

#### NEWS ITEMS.

We have received very kind letters from the Secretaries of the Scottish Nurses' Association, and the Scottish Nurses' Club acknowledging messages of sympathy from the Association on the death of Dr. McGregor Robertson.

Miss Brey and Miss Lamb (Matron of Claybury Mental Hospital) were appointed to represent the Association at the Conference on the Nursing Service in Mental Hospitals convened by the Board of Control.

A large dance took place at the Club on Saturday, April 18th, and on the following Saturday a dance was given to the domestic staff and their friends. From the close of September until now we have had entertainments and lectures of one sort or another every week and occasionally oftener. Now that the longer days have arrived, these entertainments will be discontinued as weekly fixtures, although there will be a few more at longer intervals throughout the summer.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

GRATITUDE FOR THE COMFORTS OF THE R.B.N.A. CLUB HOUSE.

To the Secretary, R.B.N.A.

DEAR MADAM,—You may not care to print this letter, but, even so, I feel an urge to tell you what the Royal British Nurses' Club House meant to a couple of American nurses, no longer young, who visited your hospitable shores last summer.

A mutual acquaintance who had made inquiries at 194, Queen's Gate, assured us that we would be taken in; but she made no definite arrangements for us, either as to time of arrival or length of stay; indeed, neither she nor we were sure of our sailing at all.

On shipboard we constantly heard that London was crowded on account of Wembley, that nobody could get lodgings, that one might apply at twenty hotels without finding an empty bed. We saw much dubious shaking of heads when to the question "Are you sure of accommodation?" our answer was "No."

Arriving in London we telephoned the Club House. True to predictions it was full; but we might come, prepared for the worst, which we gladly did, and slept well that night in the secretary's office, on two extemporaneous cots placed between the safe and the telephone. Were we grateful? We were. Would we have done as much for strangers? I like to think we would, but I have my doubts.

The next night saw us comfortably settled in a large room, vacated that day, and for three delightful weeks the Club House was our happy home. Breakfast at 9 a.m., sight seeing till dusk, dinner at 7 p.m., privileges of the house, personal interest of the Secretary whenever we asked for advice or suggestions which we often did. Indeed to the Secretary and to the London police we owe much. Neither ever failed us. The Secretary sponsored Westminster Abbey, Hampton Court, National Gallery, Wembley, Stratford-on-Avon, a concert here, a theatre there, and lent us a guide book that would have filled, profitably, ten years' time could we have followed its schedule. The

policemen courteously saw that we missed nothing of interest when in the vicinity of parks and palaces; they located streets, gave us 'bus numbers, weather predictions, addresses for repairing trunk straps; one even located a Unitarian Church for me, which is not as simple as it sounds, in London.

The comforts of the Club House were many: An understanding Secretary, much freedom, few restrictions, gas stoves that, for one penny in the slot, gave heat for one half-hour, a life-saver seldom met in subsequent travels, a place to wash and iron clothing, an accessible trunk room, an early breakfast in bed, if desired.

We thought the food remarkably good for the moderate charges made. Such porridge! Such potatoes! They were as a new vegetable to us. Whether the excellence was due to superior quality or to cooking I know not. We could and did enjoy tea for breakfast, but we could not, even after many attempts, neatly clip off the top of our eggs as did our neighbours.

We were interested in the residents and guests of the house; not because they were different, but because they were so much like our own; or more properly speaking, we are so like them. Appreciative middle-aged, less appreciative youngsters, comments on the toast, patients as subjects for conversation, even an occasional late comer-in who forgets to turn out the hall or bath room light. However, all were cheerful, friendly, self-reliant. A charming and wholesome spectacle they presented when grouped in the delightful drawing room for afternoon tea or an evening chat.

We met nurses from Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Australia, South Africa, India. We were told that if we came earlier and stayed longer we should meet those from five or six other countries. May I congratulate the British nurses on having an organization that partakes of the international in scope? I subscribe myself as a

Grateful and Appreciative Guest,

MARY L. KEITH, R.N.

Elmwood, Mass, U.S.A.

#### NURSES FROM THE DOMINIONS AND OVERSEAS.

It has been decided that nurses from abroad shall be allowed to make use of the Club on the same terms as our own Members while the Exhibition is open.

#### DONATIONS.

##### GENERAL PURPOSES FUND.

Miss Georgina Lord, £1 15s.; Miss Annie Jordan, £1 10s.; Mrs. Hamilton Gibson and Miss Husband, £1 1s.; Miss Neighbour 15s.; Anon. 10s.; Miss Evelyn Pemberton, 8s.

##### HELENA BENEVOLENT FUND.

Miss Alys Barry, 10s. 6d.; Miss Allbutt, Misses Baldwin and L. Gaved-Wills, 5s.; Misses Bellamy and Wise, 2s. 6d.; Misses Birch, Byron, Groom and Page, 2s.; Misses Bland and Reeve, 1s.

##### SETTLEMENT FUND.

Miss Hastie, £1 1s.; Miss Alys Barry, 10s. 6d.; Misses C. Maude Eve, J.P., and Fisher, 10s.; Misses Burleigh, Coates, Drakard, Ommaney, Sadleir and Siddons, 5s.; Miss Burgess, 3s.; Mrs. Collett, Misses Mallinson and Stephenson, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Aylesbury, Misses Appleyard and Page-Henderson, 2s.; Miss Sullivan, 1s. 6d.; Mrs. Lane, Misses Cowie, Grout, Halsall, McDougall, Muriel and Rae, 1s.; Miss M. Dugdale, 2s.; and Miss Byron, 1s.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

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