

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

It was with great sorrow that the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association received the news of the death of the Queen Mother. Since the day when she first put foot on British soil Her late Majesty has held the hearts of the British people both in England and beyond the seas. Her beauty, her personal charm, her kindness and sympathy, the memories that linger in our land of the coming of the Sea King's daughter, the fine dignity with which at all times she fulfilled the great demands of the State, and the simplicity and good taste that characterised her life in the English Court, have all tended to make Queen Alexandra one of the most beloved in the long, long line of British Queens. There is no section of His Majesty's subjects who will mourn more deeply her passing than the nurses: Queen Alexandra's interest and influence worked beneficently into so many movements that had for their object the relief of suffering and the development of efficient nursing both in peace and war. Our splendid Army Nursing Service owes her much, and many are the poor homes in England which have cause for thankfulness that Her Majesty gave so much help and support to the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses. Hospitals all over the land have added to their powers to extend relief through her gracious encouragement; in many other respects we have had evidence of how close to the heart of the Queen lay the welfare of the sick.

In the Castle of the Kings near Copenhagen, on our way back from Finland, we saw one of the most beautiful pictures in a great collection of priceless treasures of art. It was a painting of Queen Alexandra at the time of her marriage. As we gazed upon it we could well realise the adoration with which she was received by the English people. It was the loveliest thing this picture, that somehow made one think at once of a newly-blown, delicate rose. The exquisite colouring of the skin, the sweetness of the blue eyes, the glint of the sun on the fair hair, under the finely jewelled crown, the charm of the old-world gown made an impression that will always be associated, in our minds, with our memories of Queen Alexandra.

At a Special Meeting of the General Council, held on 24th November, the following Resolutions were passed:—

"The Council and Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association desire to place on record their deep sense of the abiding loss which they, in common with the Nation, have sustained by the passing of the Beloved Queen Mother. They know that Her late Majesty was a true and loyal friend to the Nursing profession, that she did much to aid them in their work and sympathised with them in their aspirations. For the nurses of her adopted country, her memory will never fade.

"The Council and Members of this Royal Corporation beg respectfully to offer their Majesties, the King and Queen,

and other Members of the Royal House, their sincere sympathy with them in their sorrow."

"That this Special Meeting of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses Association desires, on behalf of the Members, to convey to their President, Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught, an expression of their deep sorrow on receiving the intimation of the death of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra. The Members wish respectfully to assure her Royal Highness of their heartfelt sympathy at this time."

Her Royal Highness, the President, was asked on behalf of the Council to convey the first Resolution to His Majesty the King and also to send to the Princess Royal an expression of sincere sympathy from the Members of the Corporation.

The Association was represented at the Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey by Mr. Herbert Paterson, Medical Hon. Secretary, and Miss Mary Forbes, A.R.R.C. A wreath was sent from the Association in respectful and loyal remembrance of the Queen so universally loved.

THE RAMBLERS' CLUB.

On a recent Saturday the Ramblers' Club had a most delightful voyage of discovery to Keats's old home at Hampstead. One can scarcely imagine a more peaceful oasis than we found here after a week of strenuous and uninterrupted work. The delightful garden in which the beautiful old house stands was inviting enough in itself, and as we wandered round we could easily imagine the poet sitting under the spreading mulberry tree or in the shade of other trees at the back of the house. In the large room which we entered first, we were able, among the relics, to discover a great deal more about the life of one of the greatest of English poets than probably we should have done after several hours' reading. We delighted in the quaint, pretty, old-time portrait (taken from a miniature) of Fanny Brawne; it stands on the mantleshelf of the room where most of Keats's courtship must have been conducted, for we have to remember that the building consisted of two separate houses in those days, and in this portion the Brawnes lived. By the window we came upon a most delightful little collection of girlish treasures, quaint old bead purses, little bits of finery, a tiny silk dress she wore when about three years old and several evidences that Keats's Fanny excelled in the art of the needle, besides other old-fashioned things. Next we strolled into the other part of the house where on one side was Keats's little study and on the other side that of Brown who proved such a staunch friend to Keats. Climbing the narrow stair we came to the bedroom, a quaint little room this in which Keats spent so many weeks of illness. The house itself is charming with its old wood work and queer basket grates and we recommend all those who would like to spend a pleasant afternoon to wander into its precincts when they have a leisure hour. Afterwards the "Ramblers" availed them-

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