

I asked people to put pennies for the hospitals when I permitted them to see the house; but they were too ungenerous to do this, and I don't show the house any more." We agreed about the ungraciousness of our predecessors, saying that we felt it the more keenly as we were all nurses. Immediately the door swung wide, and we entered the home of Charles Dickens, and were shown the rooms, with much kindly courtesy. When we asked for the hospital box on leaving, we were told sadly that that was a thing of the past.

#### ENGAGEMENT.

On Friday, March 5th, a number of the members gave a Dinner in honour of Miss Jessica Perkins and Mr. Hugh Donaldson, whose engagement has just been announced. Miss Perkins has been Accountant almost from the day on which we opened the Club at Queen's Gate, and everyone agrees that Mr. Donaldson is greatly to be congratulated, not only on having won a very lovely lady, but one who is also charming and sweet. Many were the remarks on how exquisite she looked at her "engagement party," in her simple gown of pink ninon, with a bouquet of lovely pink roses.

Mrs. Temple and Miss Treasure had decorated the long dinner tables with a perfect profusion of spring flowers, and a very merry party indeed assembled to do honour to the evening's guests. Several of those who have been in the habit of attending our dances, came to show their good-will—quite fittingly, as it was at one of these dances that Mr. Donaldson and Miss Perkins first met.

After the toasts of "The King" and "The President," Miss Macdonald proposed the toast of "Our Guests." In doing so she said that she felt that, as she looked down the tables any words from her were almost superfluous, for Miss Perkins must feel that these flowers expressed in a most beautiful way the pleasure of the members in her happiness, their feelings of good-will to her, and—she hoped that Mr. Donaldson was paying attention (laughter)—their good wishes that Miss Perkins's pathway would always be strewn with flowers of happiness. But the flowers had their message for others besides Miss Perkins, and here Miss Macdonald would like to express to Miss Perkins something which she had not done before—to express the appreciation of Miss Perkins's work for the R.B.N.A. Addressing the latter she said: "You have held a position of great responsibility in the Association—one of great trust—one of difficulty, too, largely owing to the limited office space available, and the ceaseless interruptions which this gives rise to; but during your time here the flowers of courtesy have never been missing from the office. I would wish you to know how very truly this has been recognised and appreciated." Miss Macdonald, in speaking to Mr. Donaldson, said that indeed he must be an extraordinarily happy man, but she was not going to agree that he was just the flower of knightly chivalry. That he had been very clever in this matter was to be allowed, but she would tell the company why she could not truthfully commend to them his courtesy, as she had Miss Perkins's. One day he rang up to speak to Miss Perkins—some days he rang up—some days he rang up, she thought, oftener than once (laughter), but anyhow, she (Miss Macdonald) went into the office the other day just when Miss Perkins was protesting that she could not, and would not, go out with him that day; Miss Macdonald had lifted the receiver and asked whether she might go instead, and the reply was, "Well . . . I don't . . . mind" (laughter). She hoped that Mr. Donaldson would realise that the company were not laughing at him, but with him, and she asked them to drink to the long life and happiness of "Our Guests."

In replying, Mr. Donaldson thanked those present for the warmth of their good-will. "Of course he was very happy and would try to deserve his happiness."

Afterwards, in the drawing room, we had some fine songs from Mrs. Ross, Miss Dickie and Mr. Culverwell, and also delightful piano and violin solos from Misses Violet and Dora Perkins. Then the floor was cleared, as might have been predicted, for dancing.

We are sorry that we are to lose the services of Miss Violet Perkins, who has obtained an important appointment as a result of her success in passing, with distinction, the Senior Examination of the London Chamber of Commerce. We offer to her all good wishes in her new work.

#### ENTERTAINMENT.

On Saturday, March 6th, we had a fine entertainment, organised by Miss Hebson, whose acquaintance we first made as "Mrs. Buckett" in "Isabel, Edward and Anne." There was very excellent music and singing, and two or three short dramatic sketches which caused plenty of amusement, so that we had a very enjoyable evening indeed.

#### DONATIONS.

The Hon. Treasurer acknowledges, with thanks, the following donations:—

##### GENERAL PURPOSES FUND.

Miss F. E. Howell, £1 1s.; Misses Clayton, Harland, Rockett and Underhill, £1; Miss G. E. Neighbour, 15s.; Misses Alys Barry and Agnes Rider, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Bell and Misses Anson and Edith Day, 10s.; Mrs. Gurnett and Misses Atkinson, Chippendale, Clifford, Cooper, Fisher, Jennings, Jutson, McGibbon, Nattle, Orwin, Porter, Schuller and Wooler, 5s.; Anon., 4s. 6d.; Misses Curtis, Henderson and Royds, 4s.; Misses Coates and Garland, 3s.; Mrs. Baylis, Mrs. Holdsworth, Mrs. Rant, Misses A. E. Briggs, Elma Smith, Whatling, and Winterbourne, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Simons, Misses Balding, Carnock, Cross, Glanville, Lamb, Roberts, Shepherd and Wyatt, 2s.; Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Ta Bois, Misses Archer, Cowrie, Dickson, Hall, Helgesen, McDougal, Page-Henderson and Yorhan, 1s.

##### HOUSE BEAUTIFUL FUND.

Miss Isabel Macdonald, £1 1s.; Miss Swaby Smith, £8 3s.; Mrs. Temple, Miss Glover, Lord Tredegar (per Miss Treasure), £5; Miss Jordan, £2 10s.; Miss Theobald, £2; Mrs. Bearcroft, Miss Coates and A. Duncan Henry, Esq., £1 1s.; Mrs. Vavasseur, Misses Harland, Neighbour, Randall, Tait and Watts, £1; Mrs. Northwood, 15s.; Misses Bishop, Blacklock, Cox, Day, Gooding, Phillips, and Schuller, 10s.; Miss Peters, 7s.; Misses Appleton, Carter, Fisher, Fox, Robertson, Silcock, Tait, and Pelham-Williams, 5s.; Miss Brodie, 4s. 6d.; Miss Siddons, 4s.; Misses Giffen and Orwin, 2s. 6d.; Misses Dorrell, Hedges and Wyatt, 1s.

##### SETTLEMENT FUND.

Miss Rockett, £1; Misses C. M. Eve, J.P., G. Morris, 15s.; Miss Alys Barry, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Eeles, Misses Chippendale, Coates and Farries, 10s.; Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Dunn, Misses Bickerton, Clifford, Cooper, Curtis, Holford, Lock, Newell, Parsons, Royds and Siddons, 5s.; Miss Roberts, 3s.; Mrs. Chayney, Mrs. Stewart-Murray and Miss Dorrell, 2s. 6d.; Misses Page-Henderson, Lamb, Winnill, Yorhan and Friend, 2s.; Miss Morris, 1s. 6d.; Mrs. Lane, Misses Cowrie, Dixon, Fidler, Hall, Le Gros, Muriel, and McDougal, 1s.

##### HELENA BENEVOLENT FUND.

Miss Boldero £1 1s.; Misses A. Cattell, C. E. Eve, J.P. and Underhill, 10s.; Miss Atkinson, 6s.; Mrs. Murray, Misses Biglands, A. E. Briggs, Fisher, Mcvitie, Moorhouse, Newell, Porter, Rawlings, and Strange, 5s.; Misses Hall, Roberts, Schuller, and Shephard, 3s.; Misses Chitson, Dorrell, Drakard, Dyke, Ford, Fielding, Jones, Phelps, Potts and Watling, 2s. 6d.

ISABEL MACDONALD, S.R.N.  
Secretary to the Corporation.

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