

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT.

For Tuesday, December 15th, Mr. MacCallum arranged a delightful entertainment at the Royal British Nurses' Association's Club, as an appreciation of the kindness shown by many of our Members to his sister in her illness. Mr. MacCallum sang first the "Prologue to Pagliacci," and we at once felt lifted into the right atmosphere for an evening's enjoyment. Miss Jean Leslie sang "Meadowsweet" most delightfully, and then we had "The Enchantress" and "A Request" from Miss Margaret Carleton, who has an amazingly beautiful voice.

We greatly enjoyed, too, a duet, "Amore," sung by her and Mr. MacCallum; very fine indeed was the rendering of the trial scene from "The Bells," and "A Story from Waterloo" (both favourite pieces of the late Sir Henry Irving), by Philip Vallentine; his own composition about a gathering in a Y.M.C.A. hut in France in war-time, gave plenty of matter for laughter.

During the evening the Rev. W. E. Kingsbury and Mr. MacCallum showed us the wonderful model theatre of the Actors' Church Union, a very fine piece of workmanship; they next gave us an account of the activities of the Union, which has proved of so much value to actors. Perhaps what added much to the enjoyment of the evening was the unexpectedness of it all. There had been time for almost no intimation beforehand, and we found ourselves enjoying the fine entertainment almost as soon as we knew it would take place. At the close Mr. Kingsbury and Mr. MacCallum were thanked very warmly for the delightful treat they had provided.

SECTION FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS.

A large number of Members of the Association do very beautiful work of different kinds and, emanating from groups of workers round the drawing-room fire of an evening, plans have been started for a Section for Arts and Crafts. We have some clever artists in oil and water colour, notably Miss Katharine Glover, M.R.B.N.A., who always sends up such exquisite sketches for our Annuity Fund Sale. Recently a Member in the Club showed us some very artistic batik work, others do embroidery of all sorts, beautiful, plain white needlework, while still others elect to become proficient in such crafts as chair caning, basket making, and so on. We hope that the formation of a special section to encourage this kind of work will meet with much success. Frequently the complaint is made that it is "impossible for Private Nurses to have hobbies," and undoubtedly their opportunities for the development of these are somewhat circumscribed. On the other hand they have a wider opportunity for needlework and certain branches of art, than other women have. Everyone recognises the need for interests outside the ordinary day's work, but in connection with work such as we are discussing there is something deeper still. Every individual, no matter who he or she may be, has implanted in her the creative faculty, and if this is stultified by disuse it is not a matter merely of waste of opportunity; failure to use this creative artistic faculty, with which everyone is endowed in some direction (some to a much greater extent than others, certainly), leads to inharmonious development of the personality as a whole and consequently to harmful mental and nervous traits, and through these to positive physical ill-health. We are anxious to start an arts and crafts section worthy of the Association, and will be very glad to have suggestions from Members as to the lines to be adopted in organising such a section.

MISS CARSON RAE AT HOME.

We had a delightful gathering of friends at the Club when Miss Carson Rae was "At Home," though we missed

a few of the familiar faces—faces of friends whom we always look forward to seeing on these occasions. Some were kept away through illness, others from causes over which they had no control.

It was a large and happy gathering, however, and the number of young folks present served to show that Miss Carson Rae is as popular with the newer generation of the Royal British Nurses' Association's Members as she is with others.

Certainly everyone seemed very gratified to be welcomed so warmly by this bright and popular hostess of a Christmas-time tea-party.

ENGAGEMENTS.

We have pleasure in announcing the engagement of Miss Constance Birch to Mr. G. A. Burford, of Adelaide, South Australia. Miss Birch is a very popular Member of the R.B.N.A. Club, and has been the recipient of many congratulations from her colleagues at Queen's Gate.

Another engagement is that of Miss Muriel Murdoch to Lawson Gibson, Esq., of Mombasa, British East Africa, and their marriage will take place at an early date. Miss Murdoch was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and she has a large circle of friends at the R.B.N.A. who wish her every joy in her new life.

DONATIONS.

Helena Benevolent Fund.—Mrs. Campbell Thomson, £1 1s.; Mrs. Chayney, 5s.; Mrs. Collett, 5s.; Miss A. M. Mizen, 5s.; Misses C. Clarke and A. Dorrell, 2s. 6d.; Miss Scammell, 1s.

House Beautiful (Club) Fund.—Miss Swaby Smith, £5 10s.; Miss I. Macdonald, £1 18s.; Miss Raikes, 2s. 6d.; Miss V. Hedges, 2s.

OBITUARY.

It is with sincere regret that we have to report the death of Sir R. Douglas Powell, Bart., one of the Founder Members of our Association and an eminent Member of the Profession of Medicine.

BOOK REVIEW.**The Coming of Baby.**

Both nurses who have collaborated in writing this book, Miss Lucy E. Ashby and Mrs. Kate Atherton Earp, are well known in the profession. Within recent years both have contributed very considerably to Nursing Literature, and Mrs. Atherton Earp has been lecturing on nursing and kindred subjects in almost every part of England. In other respects both are eminently qualified to write a book of this kind and a glance through it is sufficient to convince one that it contains very many hints that should prove most useful to expectant mothers, practical hints that every mother can carry out without any difficulty and at a minimum of cost. But equally do we see a sphere of usefulness for this clearly written volume, among nurses connected with all branches of baby welfare work, and to the lecturer and teacher on these subjects we can recommend no more useful manual. No detail seems to have been forgotten and the plan of the book is so good that there is no waste of space and no information that can be deemed unnecessary.

Copies of the book, which has a foreword by Sir James Cantlie, can be obtained from the office of the R.B.N.A. at the cost of 3s. 6d.

NEW YEAR'S WISHES.

We offer to all our Members our good wishes that the New Year may bring to each one of them much happiness and prosperity. We thank them for the support which they have given to the many activities of the Association throughout the past year, and hope that in the New Year we are entering upon we may meet them often at our Headquarters. We already have plans on the way for many interesting and pleasant gatherings there.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

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