

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

A Special Meeting of the General Council was held on December 21st, 1926, to consider the Recommendation of the Executive Committee, that the Association take steps to oppose the grant of a Royal Charter to the College of Nursing Ltd. After full discussion it was unanimously decided that the Council adopt the Recommendation of its Executive Committee. Members of the Council expressed the view that, judging from the past history of the College of Nursing, Ltd., it would not be to the benefit of the Nurses for this body to acquire the powers conferred by a Royal Charter; the Association was therefore bound to take steps to oppose the grant of such Charter. It was pointed out that the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., was not a professional body, and included some who, in the past, had used all their powerful influence to prevent the organisation of the Nursing Profession by the State. When the Royal British Nurses' Association and other Societies of Nurses were founded, these opponents of organisation had done everything that lay in their power to prevent nurses from joining the Societies, and it was largely due to the opposition of those who had formed the College of Nursing, Ltd., that Nursing had failed to get legal recognition and protection until 1919, long after many of the Dominions and the States of America had granted such protective legislation to their nurses. These and several other aspects of the history and policy of the College of Nursing, Ltd., led the Council to hold the view that it would hinder, and not help towards the self-government and future development of the Profession if the suggested Charter were granted. A letter was accordingly drafted and forwarded to His Majesty's Privy Council praying that the petition of the College of Nursing, Ltd., be not granted, and stating that the Association is prepared to submit, by King's Counsel, definite arguments in support of their petition.

CHRISTMAS AT THE ASSOCIATION'S HEADQUARTERS.

Christmas-time at the Club is invariably a very festive season, but this year it seemed to be more than usually merry, and we were kept alive to all the joys of anticipation by the untiring energy of one of the Members who had evidently made up her mind that her particular Christmas treat was to lie in giving a Christmas treat to others. After a night on duty, outside of London, Miss Beatrice Treasure arrived every morning, for a week beforehand, to get forward with her arrangements, and passed in and out "like a streak of lightning," as one of the nurses remarked, but some of us knew of how a bath in the basement was filling up with stores of holly and other evergreens, and we noticed that the Christmas tree assumed daily more and more glittering decoration and mysterious fruit. Then

came the climax, on Christmas Eve, when a very kind patient allowed her night nurse to make a tryst at Covent Garden in the morning, and, later, having unloaded her taxi-cab of its burden of beauty, Miss Treasure was busy all day with ladder and scissors and string transforming our dining room so that, with its wealth of holly, evergreen, trails of smilax, masses of yellow and white chrysanthemums and asparagus fern, it seemed just the very place where the spirit of Christmas must enter in; then Miss Treasure proceeded to a further work of transformation on drawing rooms, staircase and hall, and to put last touches to the Christmas tree, whose advent ten days before had marked the commencement of her Christmas adventure. It had a part in many Christmas tableaux, that tree with its glistening, shimmering fruits; perched on a tall pedestal it stood just beyond the hall fire, where "the young and beautiful" or the "wee moderns," as they are alternatively called, sit and wait, on December nights, later and later as the days pass on, sit and wait for the postman to disburden himself. Many, indeed, were the rustlings, the chattering, the bickerings and the shouts of merry laughter which the Christmas tree heard, and often a mock auction, which resulted in nothing, for the reserve price grew higher as each bidder raised her call. Then came that last tableau when, round the hall fire, the Christmas stockings for the domestic staff were filled—"and so to bed." No, not yet, the tree was not to spend that last night in the silence and darkness of the empty hall; in twos and threes nurses slipped out to midnight church and, when they came in, during the "wee sma' hours ayont the twal," their colleague's Christmas gift to them shone in glittering welcome through the glass-panelled doors and sparkled its Christmas greetings still when, in the morning, early church-goers passed downstairs ere daylight came. After the postman's visit, on Christmas day, the house was quieter than it had been for a week, but at tea-time we all foregathered and welcomed that Christmas adventuress, "Treasure of London," and a few others who like to spend each Christmas in their Association's headquarters.

Dinner was the same lively affair that it always has been at Christmas-time in Queen's Gate, and the usual toasts were honoured—His Majesty the King; H.R.H. the President; the Association and all its Members at home and abroad (proposed by Miss Meyboom from Holland); Our International Visitors; the Secretary and her Staff; Miss Dickie (who received an ovation on the excellence of her Christmas fare); Sir Alfred Rice-Oxley (who looks after all our sick folk with fatherly care); and the donors of gifts for the feast—Mr. Montague Price, Mrs. Harte, Mrs. Temple, Misses Birse, Mr. A. Robertson, and Mr. Lewis Macdonald. Then the cook and other members of the staff were thanked for what they had done, and we ascended to the drawing room to enjoy delicious chocolates (graciously sent by H.R.H. the President for the nurses at Queen's Gate) and to unload the Christmas tree which had mys-

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