

"THE PIRATES" CONCERT PARTY OF THE ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

Her Royal Highness The President, Princess Arthur of Connaught, R.R.C., S.R.N., was graciously pleased to be present at an entertainment give by "The Pirates" Concert Party of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (London Division) on Saturday, November 12th, commencing at 8 p.m. The entertainment took place by permission of Commodore H. Douglas King, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., V.D., R.N.V.R., M.P. In every way it provided a very novel affair, and that it was thoroughly enjoyed was shown by the hilarity of the closely packed audience in our large double dining-room. Lieut.-Commander B. D. Nicholson's very amusing songs were vastly appreciated, especially when, in the half-starved "make-up" of a regular "down and outer," he assured the company that he was "fearfully frightfully fit!" Lieutenant J. H. Dundas-Grant, it was agreed, is most efficiently carrying on the musical traditions of his family. We trembled when thirty jolly sailor boys tramped in chorus round our somewhat inadequately proportioned platform, but, fortunately, its planks proved equal to the occasion and no first aid was called for. In the dramatic sketch, "Preparing Piratical Productions" or "A Rehearsal in Progress," we came to the conclusion that our own producer of "Isabel, Edward and Anne" and "Enter Mrs. Borridge" had a soft job in comparison with the producer on "H.M.S. President" of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. We certainly had a realistic, convincing and most amusing portrayal indeed of his problems.

At the close of the entertainment a few members of the Concert Party had the honour of being presented to Her Royal Highness, and the Princess said that she had greatly enjoyed the Concert. Many members of the audience also spoke of the pleasure and amusement it had given to them. As a result of the Concert, the sum of £27 has been placed in the banking account of the Helena Benevolent Fund, and in acknowledging this we again thank the artists for their kindness, and also the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association who rose to the occasion and, before the date of the performance, had secured every available seat. Theirs was the amusement and enjoyment of the entertainment, but they must still feel pleasure in knowing that, owing to their generosity, some of their less fortunate fellow-members are experiencing relief and comfort. As was the case last year, some of the money will probably go in unexpected gifts of money to brighten the Christmas of some who, but for the "friendship" of their fellow-members, might have but little to cheer them in the post-bag of Christmas Eve. Thus the laughter and gaiety of the concert night will find an echo in their hearts when enclosures from the Committee arrive.

After the concert was over the entertainers and many of the audience adjourned to the drawing-room, where dancing went on until nearly midnight.

1887 "AT HOME" TO 1927.

On December 7th next we are to celebrate the birthday of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and the later Members of the Association are to entertain the Founder Members and others who joined during and prior to the year 1907. It was at first arranged, as intimated in our last issue, that the "Birthday Party" should take the form of a Reception in the evening, but a number of the early Members have pointed out that it is difficult, and often impossible, for them to go out on a December night; therefore an alteration has been made in the arrangements originally decided upon. Members who joined between the years 1907 and 1927 are asked to send us a subscription of one shilling towards the cost of their hospitality to the Founders and early Members whom they desire to enter

tain; we have been asked by several to say that they are looking forward very much to meeting their guests—the pioneers of their Association—on Wednesday, December 7th, from 4 to 6 p.m., at 194, Queen's Gate, and they hope that many will be able to attend. Badges should be worn.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

A number of boxes of chocolates, calendars and other articles suitable for Christmas gifts remain from the Sale, held on November 30th, and these will be sold off at a small cost at a Supplementary Sale during Saturday, December 17th.

SALE OF WORK.

Just as we go to press, the Sale for the "House Beautiful" Fund is in progress, and we wish to thank our members for all the delightful gifts which they have sent. Several of these gifts came without any card to indicate who were the donors, and so we ask them, through our Official Organ, to accept our sincere and warm thanks for their kindness.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

Through the Official Organ of the Association, we convey to our members hearty Christmas greetings, and we hope that the New Year will bring to them all much happiness and success.

DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT IN AID OF THE HELENA BENEVOLENT FUND.

Some time ago we announced that some friends of the late Miss Charlotte Little had decided to found a Memorial to this Pioneer in Nursing Organisation, who, throughout her professional career, was a most staunch supporter of our Association. The Memorial is to take the form of a holiday fund for working nurses, and each year it will send to the seaside or elsewhere some tired Member of the Association who would be benefited by a week's rest.

Miss Cattell, who was a personal friend and colleague of Miss Little, is organising a dramatic entertainment for the evening of Saturday, January 14th, at 8 o'clock, when Mr. Lovegrove and his company will give us a performance of "Tons of Money." Miss Cattell asks us to say that she expects us to do what we can to get "tons of money" to complete the amount required for the Memorial. We shall be glad to hear from members of the Association who will help us to sell tickets. Mr. Lovegrove's company has twice given us dramatic performances, and those have been so good that we have little fear that our extemporised theatre will be crowded to its doors. We shall certainly have a very amusing evening. The tickets will be 7s. 6d., 5s., and 2s.

BENEVOLENT WORK.

We take this opportunity to offer to the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association our most sincere and warm thanks for all their splendid generosity to the various benevolent funds throughout the year. The Helena Benevolent Fund has, owing to this generosity, been able to relieve many of our Members who have been suffering from sickness or have been in need of rest, while the Nurses in residence at the Princess Christian Settlement have repeatedly expressed their appreciation of the Home.

Not only are we indebted to the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association for many generous donations to the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, which have helped us very much in founding fresh annuities, but we have to thank some also for many days and hours of voluntary work in our office, thereby we have saved, in the last few years, for this most valuable benevolent fund, hundreds of pounds which, in some cases, might have gone in salaries.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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