

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

LABOUR CONFERENCE ON NURSING QUESTIONS.

The following were the representatives of the Association at the Conference held by the Labour Party at Caxton Hall on January 28th:—Miss Carson Rae, F.B.C.N., R.G.N. (Nurse Hon. Secretary), Miss Breay, F.B.C.N., S.R.N., Miss Georgina Lord, and the Secretary.

SINGING PHYSICALS.

We had a very novel and delightful entertainment at the Club on January 22nd, arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Atherton Earp. The music of Mr. Le Fleming was pronounced a great treat, and there were many enquiries afterwards regarding this promising young pianist who interpreted to us with such a delicate sympathy compositions of Bach, Chopin and Debussy.

Madame Novello Davies was assured of a welcome among the nurses already, for there are few actors of repute whose work is unknown to them. The mother of Ivor Novello was therefore received with a very spontaneous cordiality, and her address was particularly well chosen, for an audience of nurses, letting in fresh lights on the study of hygiene.

Madame Novello Davies commenced her remarks by saying that there was no such thing as people who had singing voices and people who had not. "If you can speak," said Madame Novello, "you can sing." It was quite ridiculous to suppose that people are born with two mechanisms, one for singing and another for speaking. If one had powers to use the voice for speech it could be trained for song too. But many of the methods used to develop the singing voice at the present time were wrong, and they so very frequently resulted in causing people to grow stout, stoutness had come to be regarded as inevitable in the singers of the present day; yet neither Lind nor Patti were stout and Galli Curci and Jeritz are thin and supple. The system to be aimed at, both in speaking and singing, was the co-ordination of the three systems, Breathing, Resonating and Annunciating, and all three were combined perfectly in Singing Physicals with a perfect adjustment of the whole body at the same time; in fact they aimed at a perfect co-ordination of body and brain as one whole instrument in producing sound.

Three pupils of Madame Novello Davies then gave some wonderful examples of "Singing Physicals," and it was difficult to say whether one admired most the grace and harmony of the movements or the evidence of the enormous control over the breathing apparatus which these exercises displayed. One felt that the control achieved by these Artistes was prophetic of a time when the organs of breathing will be as much under the control of the will as are now those concerned with food and digestion.

At the close of the ceremony a very hearty vote of thanks was proposed to Madame Novello Davies and the other Artistes.

PRESENTATION TO MISS AMBLER JONES.

The Matrons working under the Metropolitan Asylums Board had a very pleasant gathering at the Royal British Nurses' Association's Club on Thursday, January 20th, to bid farewell to Miss Ambler Jones who is resigning her Matronship of the South Eastern Hospital, New Cross. After tea and pleasant conversation Dr. Caiger presented to Miss Ambler Jones a beautiful gold slave bangle and a gold travelling clock, on behalf of the Matrons holding office under the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

Dr Caiger said that he had been asked to perform this duty because he was the oldest friend of Miss Ambler Jones present. This farewell party brought up memories of forty years ago, when he was in charge of the Northern Hospital, Winchmore Hill; he was told one morning that a Night Superintendent was arriving, and he was very glad to hear it, because until then he had been acting as Night Superintendent (laughter). Miss Ambler Jones arrived well and smiling, evidently well disposed towards those with whom she was to work, an important matter in those days. The duties of Night Superintendent then were no sinecure, and one of the most important was to see that the Nurses were in their own blocks at night; it had been no uncommon incident to find them all having supper when they ought to have been in the wards. Matters soon improved under the able supervision of Miss Ambler Jones, and so, Dr. Caiger said, he felt under a personal obligation to her from that time onwards, and in losing her the Metropolitan Asylums Board was losing a very valued official, and was parting with her with deep regret.

APPOINTMENT.

Just as we go to Press we learn that Miss Rosa Silcock has been appointed Assistant Matron of the Government Hospital, Sarawak.

Some years ago the Sarawak Government asked the Association to find for them a Matron for this Hospital and Miss Margaret Tait, one of our Members, who was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, was selected; since she became Matron the activities and usefulness of the Hospital have developed enormously. Under the very enlightened and generous rulership of the English Rajah of Sarawak, Miss Tait has been able to work under most encouraging conditions and thoroughly enjoys her professional and social experiences in Sarawak.

Miss Silcock is looking forward greatly to her work in this European Hospital in Borneo, especially as she and Miss Tait have frequently met at the Club on occasions when Miss Tait was on home leave. Miss Silcock was trained at the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, and has worked in the East. For several years she has been on the Association's Co-operation of Private Nurses and was elected last summer to a seat on the Council of the Corporation. We offer to her, through the medium of our official Organ, the best wishes of her colleagues in the R.B.N.A.

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