

receive from Sir Alfred Rice-Oxley no greater attention and care than that which characterises his honorary services to the nurses at Queen's Gate. One of the younger members, arriving with all the depression and feelings of illness that a real attack of "flu" can give rise to, said, "They wanted to keep me in bed there and to have a doctor, but I just felt that if I could get back into the Club and see Sir Alfred I'd be all right in no time." In view of the many encroachments made upon his time by the continual recurrence of influenza at the Club during January, we once asked him, "Don't you ever regret having undertaken the responsibility of such a family?" "Never; of all my patients these are the last I'd give up." And so it is not surprising that no one meets with a brighter welcome than he from the usual group around the hall fire, from the unfortunate occupant of some sick room at the Club, or from his many friends in our drawing-room, when, with Lady Rice-Oxley, he comes to one or other of our social functions; the sense of good comradeship that exists between their Hon. Physician and the Nurses has stood even the test of finding his silk hat in process of being auctioned, in the course of a Sale of Work for the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund by that enterprising section of the Club Members "the Wee Moderns."

From other points of view the Nurses have benefited by Sir Alfred's kindness, for he and Dr. Douglas Rice-Oxley have lost no opportunity of helping to enlarge the connection of the Royal British Nurses' Association's Co-operative Society. Altogether it is a matter for small surprise that this eminent physician has a very warm place in the affections of a large group of Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and that they look upon him as a very particular friend indeed. In the last issue of the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* there was related an incident which reflected no great credit on the medical man concerned.

We had a good antidote to the unpleasant impression it left when, just the morning after, as Sir Alfred passed along to the lift, one nurse was heard laughingly to remark, "If you put on your very oldest hat and look your worst after night duty, he always knows you just the same when you meet him in the street." That Sir Alfred's interest in nurses is no new departure is shown by the fact that he was one of the first physicians to lecture to nurses in training in one of our largest London hospitals.

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH.

To the Secretary, R.B.N.A.

R.B.N.A. Home,  
12, Dequetteville Terrace,  
Kent Town, South Australia.

DEAR MISS MACDONALD,—I have the honour to advise you that at the Quarterly Meeting of the Committee of the South Australian Branch of the R.B.N.A., our Pre-

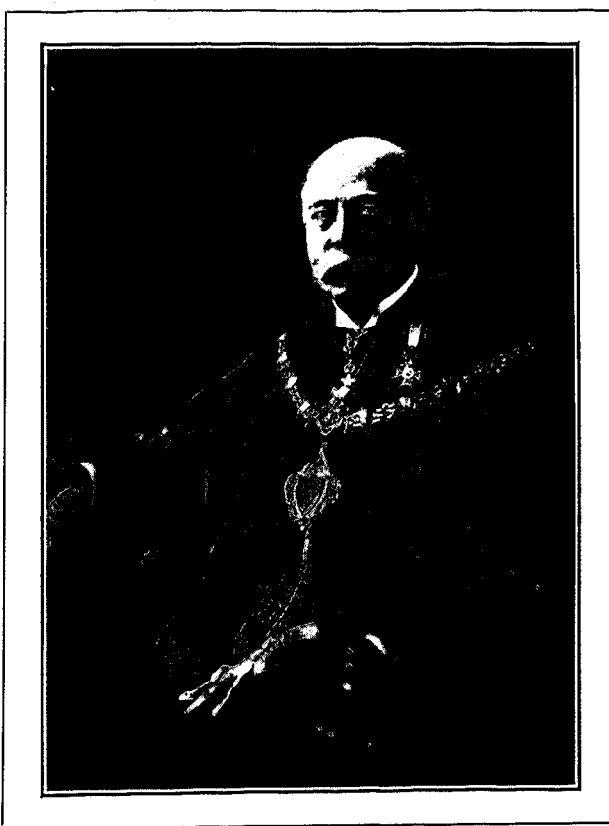
sident (Dr. H. H. E. Russell, O.B.E.) brought before them the history of the genesis of the British College of Nurses. All aspects of the question were discussed, especially with regard to interesting the Members of our Branch sufficiently to realise just what an important development has taken place in the Nursing World. A small Sub-committee has been formed consisting of Matron E. C. Davidson, C.B.E., R.R.C. (Keswick Hospital), and Matron Harrauld (Adelaide Hospital), and the Secretary. We are to go into the data to hand and report the result to the Committee at its Meeting. I am quite looking forward to my next letter from you, hoping to have still more information on this vital subject.

I am enclosing a copy of the last Quarterly Report and a list of qualifications, &c., of new Members as passed by the Committee.

Wishing you a bright, prosperous New Year.

I have the honour to be,  
dear Miss Macdonald,  
(Signed)

WINIFRED MULLANEY,  
Secretary, R.B.N.A.,  
South Australian Branch.



SIR ALFRED RICE-OXLEY, C.B.E., J.P., M.D.,  
Hon. Physician to the R.B.N.A. Club.

very warmly, and feel great pride in her latest achievement.

#### CLUB FIXTURES.

The fixtures for the Club Calendar are notified to our Members on page i of our Advertisement Supplement. We hope that they will pay particular attention to these dates. The "Ramble" to Clerkenwell will prove very interesting because it is connected with the early beginnings of nursing history, and it will make all the more attractive the lecture which we are to have on "The Sword and the Robe in the Temple," by one of the greatest authorities on the subject of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem (Colonel Blackham) on March 19th.

The Secretary will be very glad if members will do all that they can to make the Whist Drive, in aid of the Helena Benevolent Fund, a success. No Executive Committee meets without making grants to our sick and aged members

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