

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

In the last issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, we published an article with correspondence which took place between the Ministry of Health, the Departmental Committee which it has appointed to consider the workings of the Midwives Acts, and the Executive Committee of our Association. We also gave, in the article, a general indication of the views of the Executive Committee in connection with the failure of the Ministry to give representation to the Registered Nurses of England and Wales on the Departmental Committee. Further correspondence has since taken place, which we append herewith.

Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W.1.
4th August, 1928.

DEAR MADAM,

In reply to your letters of the 17th and 19th ultimo, I am desired by Sir Robert Bolam, Chairman of the Midwives Committee, to say that as the Minister of Health is not able to go back on his previous decision the Committee trust that the Royal British Nurses' Association will be able to give evidence along with other kindred organisations.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. HOWES,
Secretary.

Miss Isabel Macdonald,
Secretary, Royal British Nurses' Association.

The Royal British Nurses' Association,
194, Queen's Gate, London.
7th August, 1928.

DEAR SIR,

I thank you for your letter of 4th August, informing us that the Minister of Health "is not able to go back on his previous decision." We would point out, however, that (as indicated in my letter of July 17th) no decision of the Minister was communicated to us, but we gather, from the terms of your letter, that he does not contemplate appointing a Representative of the Registered Nurses to the Committee on the Training and Supply of Midwives.

My Committee, when they held their last meeting, prior to the holiday months, came to a definite decision that it would be inadvisable to accept Sir Robert Bolam's invitation unless the Nurses were given representation on his Committee, to enable them to participate in its discussions and decisions. We regret therefore that, in view of the Minister's decision, we are unable to give evidence as, in your letter of 4th August, you again kindly suggest that we should.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary.

W. H. Howes, Esq.,
Ministry of Health.

SOME HOLIDAY REFLECTIONS.

"When I prepare for a holiday the first thing I pack is my fishing rod," said a bright young nurse as she gathered her numerous packages together and jauntily superintended their removal into a waiting taxi-cab. "And" she continued with emphasis, "I am going to pack that fishing rod every summer if I live to go holidays until I'm ninety or so. I feel that, as long as I do it, I'm fit and when I don't—well I'll join it on the shelf." And looking at her one could not but feel that she would approach every undertaking in the same spirit of optimism, with the same zest as that with which she set out on her holiday, no matter whether such undertaking might be her fishing, her next case, or, maybe, just her lunch!

There was much common-sense in her outlook too, for so long as the mind is encouraged to be versatile, just so long it retains its adaptability to circumstances, irrespective of what may be its owner's span of years; and adaptability usually means capability as well and a corresponding aptitude to turn all circumstances to good account. In holiday time "the gentle art" is by no means to be despised as a means for the diversion of one's thoughts into other channels than those connected with the anxieties and responsibilities of a sick room or hospital; it calls for a concentration that effectively chains the mind to the scene of action while, psychologically, it helps to engender a very valuable quality in one's attitude towards life—the ability to win or lose with equanimity. For, if, victorious, you land a trout you simply throw it into the bottom of the boat and begin all over again or, if you don't succeed in catching anything at all, you return home in the very best of tempers nevertheless. Or it may be that the trout is triumphant after you have carefully "played him" for ten minutes or more; well, so much the better for your reputation for are not all the largest trout, in any loch or stream, just those "m-ght have beens" that were foul hooked or were able to escape with *your* cast in *their* gills? But you will argue, and with truth, that it is hard for anyone, who has not been brought up by stream or river or loch, to acquire a taste for shivering in a boat, perhaps in a drenching rain, for six or eight hours a day, and that often without the encouragement of a "nibble"; we are not, however, recommending, as a holiday pastime, what to many would be the last word in boredom. We merely introduced the incident of the fishing rod as a kind of seasonable introduction to a topical subject—the holidays—a subject which indeed seems to be the only one of any interest in August when Private Nurses, at any rate, are disposed to let their practice take care of itself whatever may prove to be the reckoning when all troop back to the business of life again, the nurses with short pockets and the rest of the world and his wife with a clean bill of health. But recriminations are out of season surely in the holiday months—much better look on the bright side and confine our reflections to the benefits of a holiday.

Even in such a materialistic age as our own the very word suggests something more than mere physical refresh-

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