

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

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THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TRAINED NURSES' ANNUITY FUND.

The Annual Meeting of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund was held on Monday, March 19th. H.R.H. the Princess Arthur of Connaught, President of the Fund, presided, and the meeting was largely attended. The Members of the Council were re-elected and Major Rigg was elected Chairman of the Council. In thanking the meeting for the honour thus conferred on him Major Rigg said that, however unworthy he felt himself to fill the place of the late Chairman, he had one qualification for the office—he yielded to no one in his loyalty, respect and admiration for the Nurses.

In moving the adoption of the Report, which had been circulated, Major Rigg said that it gave evidence of a very satisfactory condition of affairs; the income of the Fund had been well maintained, while the cost of administration had, in proportion, been extraordinarily low. He felt that the meeting should send to the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association its acknowledgments of the great amount of valuable expert book-keeping and clerical work which had been undertaken for the Fund without charge; thereby its capital had been increased and the list of annuitants had grown very considerably. It was, said Major Rigg, his sorrowful duty to refer to one part of the Report in particular—the reference to the late Chairman, Mr. Montague Price. Mr. Price had placed at the disposal of the Fund sagacity, kindness and a wide knowledge of finance; many Nurses to-day were benefitting as a result. In his personality Mr. Price combined all the qualities that go to the making of an English gentleman; no better description of him could be found than in the lines of the poet:—

“His life was gentle; and the elements  
In him so mixed that Nature might stand up  
And say to all the world—‘This was a man.’”

At the close of the meeting H.R.H. the Princess Arthur, and those who attended the meeting, adjourned to the drawing-room for tea; when this was over a number of the Nurses were presented to Her Royal Highness. Mrs. Temple handed to the Princess a beautiful bouquet of daffodils and irises.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS MARGARET HUXLEY.

We offer to Miss Margaret Huxley the sincere congratulations of her fellow members of the R.B.N.A. on the announcement made by the University of Dublin that the Senate has decided to confer upon her the Hon. Degree of M.A. in recognition of her services as a pioneer of Scientific Nursing in Ireland. We feel that this is just such an honour as will be deeply appreciated by Miss Huxley, but also we can well realise, from our knowledge of her sincerity and enthusiasm as a great pioneer of Nursing Evolution, that probably her chief source of gratification will lie in the fact that the University of Dublin has, in conferring upon

her its degree of Master of Arts, recognised the dignity of her Profession—the youngest Profession and one which owes much to her powers of imagination, to her aspirations, and to her creative ability.

## THE RAMBLERS' CLUB.

The latest expedition of the “Ramblers'” Club was to Leighton House. Sir Alfred Rice-Oxley, who was largely instrumental in preserving for the Royal Borough of Kensington the house where a great man did his work, took us round and showed us the beauties of this lovely place. We spent a most interesting afternoon among things closely connected with the daily life of “The Peer of a Day”—treasures collected by him from all parts of the world, and masterpieces of his own creative and artistic genius. The house, which stands in its own beautiful grounds, seems to vibrate with the great personality of the late Lord Leighton, who built it, lived in it for many years, and died in the simple little bedroom with its narrow red velvet bed, or rather couch; in fact, so little was the house designed to serve domestic purposes that this is the only bedroom in the house. As an artist's house, however, it is probably unexcelled by any other, both from the point of view of artistic beauty and the fine effects of light, which are achieved through its peculiar and beautiful architectural arrangement. Lady Rice-Oxley mentioned some details of a reception given by Lord Leighton, which she had attended and which helped to bring still more clearly before us this courteous and fascinating man with his magnificent head and fine upright figure. “The kindly life whose tune was the tune of May” was Swinburne's description of Lord Leighton, and over and over again some anecdote, or the impress of his personality in the arrangement of the rooms, seemed to bring these lines to our mind. His peerage was one unique in the annals of England, for it lasted but for a day; its patent was dated January 24th, 1896, and Lord Leighton died on January 25th, 1896, unmarried, so that the peerage itself died with him.

We admired the entrance hall with the blue tiles by William de Morgan, surrounding tiles of the sixteenth century; its pillars are of fine Damascus work, and in the centre stands a magnificent bronze bust of Leighton on a marble pedestal. From this hall we passed to the most beautiful feature of the whole place—the fine Arab Hall with its towering mysterious interior, its exquisite colouring and fine Eastern treasures, some of them more than six hundred years old. Light filters through bits of the Oriental glass, which seem like many coloured stars in the vault over the hall; the silence is strangely unbroken, save for the silvery splashing of the water in the black monolith in the centre of the hall, and the whole scene is realistically Eastern indeed. The chief feature of the drawing room and study on the ground floor, apart from the sketches round the walls, is that the fireplace stands beneath a window and, at night, instead of the blinds, a heavy mirror is drawn across

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