

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES AND THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

In the March issue we reported an important Conference held at 194, Queen's Gate, in order that Members of the Association might discuss the suggestion made by the Royal Medico-Psychological Association that their examination should, in future, be taken as qualifying for State Registration of Nurses trained in the Nursing of Mental Diseases. The Resolution passed at that meeting, most strongly deprecating any attempt to interfere with the one portal system of the State Register, was subsequently forwarded to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

In acknowledging the receipt of the letter and Resolution the Registrar stated that these would be placed before the Chairman of the Council. Thereupon, on the instruction of the Executive Committee, the Secretary pointed out that it was the intention of the Conference, and the Committee, that the communication should be brought before the whole Council and received the following reply:

The General Nursing Council
for England and Wales,
20, Portland Place,
London, W.1.
23rd April, 1929.

Dear Miss Macdonald,

I have to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of April 20th with reference to your letter of March 20th.

The Resolution forwarded by the Royal British Nurses' Association will, in due course, be laid before the Council.

The General Nursing Council had received no official communication from the Royal Medico-Psychological Association until a very recent date. This communication asked the Council to meet members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association in Conference. This Conference has been arranged to take place in May, and to publish any resolution before the Council has had an opportunity of discussing the matter with the Royal Medico-Psychological Association would prejudice the case.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) M. S. RIDDELL,

Registrar.

Miss Isabel Macdonald,

Secretary: Royal British Nurses' Association.

It is futile to give publicity to the views of the Registered Nurses on this question, which so intimately concerns them, when the Conference has been held, and a decision practically arrived at.

LECTURE.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

We had a most interesting lecture on Saturday, April 20th, from Mr. Oliver, O.B.E., Hon. Secretary of the Blood Transfusion Society. Major Rigg, who had promised to take the Chair, was at the last moment prevented from doing so, and Miss Carson Rae kindly presided instead.

Mr. Oliver said that the Blood Transfusion Society had

been in existence since 1921, and gave some statistics showing the large number of lives saved through the medium of the Society, and also the number which had been prolonged. One Harley Street surgeon said that this Society was doing more to save life, he considered, than any hospital; the Offices of the Society were never closed, so that it could be called upon at all times to come to the help of the sick. Blood transfusion became possible three hundred years ago, when Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood; at that time it proved unsuccessful, however, because man had not the knowledge of how to prevent the blood from clotting. A great doctor and a magnificent scientist and architect—Sir Christopher Wren—carried out the first experiments in blood transfusion on animals, and one of the earliest transfusions upon a human being took place in the year 1667. "Of course," said the lecturer, "Samuel Pepys was there, as might be expected," and on this occasion the blood of a calf was transfused into a Bachelor of Divinity, "who," Pepys remarks, "was a little cracked in his head." No results of any value were obtained by Wren or his colleagues, and it is now of course regarded as dangerous to transfuse an animal's blood into a man; the operation was forbidden in Paris in the 17th century, on the ground that if a man were transfused with calf's or sheep's blood he might begin to grow horns. Early in the 19th century Blundell commenced using transfusion, but he found great difficulty in contending with the dangers of sepsis and coagulation; the discoveries of Pasteur and Lister ultimately cleared away the former. In those days the blood was usually transfused from one person to another by means of a syringe. At the beginning of this century blood transfusion was performed by joining an artery in one person's wrist to a vein in another's arm, but the difficulty was that, even if the operation were successful, it was impossible to know how much blood passed from the donor to the patient. If the donor's blood were received into a vessel it would very soon clot, and then could not be passed on to the patient; and it was only in 1914 that it was discovered that citrate of sodium possessed the qualities that would prevent this clotting. America came—with the most perfected practice of blood transfusion—into the war, but she had a number of years to develop the influences arising from the aforementioned discovery.

Knowledge of blood transfusion gained during the war has been turned to good account, and is very often used in hospitals for the numerous street accidents which are constantly occurring; many forms of illness also can be treated by transfusion, notably cases of pernicious anaemia and ulceration of the stomach. A number of severe operations are only performed after the patient has first had a transfusion; such treatment, necessarily, demands the services of a blood donor, who will part with the blood required, usually about a pint. The blood is withdrawn painlessly by puncturing a vein, and the donor must rest quietly for half-an-hour after giving the blood. Usually, he feels better rather than worse after the operation; in this connection it is to be remembered that blood-letting is

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