

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## GOOD WISHES FROM H.R.H. THE PRESIDENT.

The Secretary has received the following gracious Message from Her Royal Highness the President :

DEAR MISS MACDONALD,

Through our Official Organ I should like to convey my Christmas greetings to all Members of our Association. I would send to one and all my good wishes for a very Happy Christmas and many joys in the New Year.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

ALEXANDRA,

President.

## MRS. JOHN TEMPLE.

### The Fairy Godmother of the Nurses' Club.

The Bye-laws of the Association provide for the appointment of certain Honorary Officers but the nurses at Queen's Gate have a way of making their own appointments with gay disdain for any limitations that may be set up by Bye-laws. Such appointments—of which there are some half-dozen or so—are usually spontaneously conferred upon people who have made for themselves some special niche in Club-life at "a hundred and ninety-four." Quite recently we were amused to hear a medical man (who has shown much kindness to the nurses and who is a frequent visitor at the Club) tell how he had discovered that, at a certain hospital, the nurses called him "Father." He spoke with amusement but with a certain air of diffidence too, possibly because he is not used to daughters, having as his real family only five tall sons. He seemed cheerful about the responsibilities foisted upon him having, presumably, been to see "Dear Brutus" and learnt that "Daughters are the Thing"; so we just broke the news to him gently that he had a second adopted family. Others have been more frankly given their titles, and no one fulfils her particular rôle with a greater cheerfulness than Mrs. John Temple, the Fairy Godmother of the Club. For most of our feast days she "comes along," whether "present in the body" or not, to help "the happy crowd at Queen's Gate," as a visitor described them, to have a good time.

While here on her latest visit it was felt that somehow Mrs. Temple must be inveigled into a photographer's studio in order to secure a picture for the Christmas number of the Supplement. It seemed just the one into which her photograph should go. A taxi was hailed by the indefatigable Miss Treasure; even Fairy Godmothers have to experience "bringing up" and a laughing group, cracking walnuts round the drawing room fire next evening, listened to a tale of how a photograph of that *rara avis*—a Fairy Godmother—was secured. Mrs. Temple's popularity is in no small measure accounted for by her obvious feeling of good comradeship with the nurses; she never forgets that she too is a nurse and is as enthusiastic about all that takes place in the nursing world as she was in the days

before her marriage; every incident in the life of "The House Beautiful" is of interest to her. One particularly lively lady in describing her to someone else said, "You see she's just like this, when I say 'Let's,' She says 'Yes, let's'"; then out they sally "Tweedledum and Tweedledee," as Mrs. Temple herself has styled them, to commit some new extravagance.

Mrs. Temple was a Member of the Association before her marriage and took her training at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool. In 1917 she married Mr. John Temple, of Moseley Bank, Liverpool, and the many social claims that arose for her then, and her husband's subsequent illness, caused us to see little of her at Headquarters for a long time, but she always kept in touch with the Association by correspondence.

When we entered upon our "adventure in Queen's Gate" she became enthusiastic about the project and has shown great generosity in helping the nurses to bring it to a successful climax. One thing that pleases her colleagues is that when she comes to town she does not choose to go to some smart hotel with her other friends but prefers the more unceremonious existence that prevails at Queen's Gate. She enters into all the incidents of the day here, and when a nurse has been suddenly hurried off to "a job of work" we have more than once heard her laughingly exclaim "Oh, why can't I be sent off too?"

Mrs. John Temple takes part in many of the activities of her own busy town. She has been Vice-President of the Aigburth People's Hall, Liverpool, since 1924. This Hall was founded and built by the late Mr. Temple and provides for almost every outdoor and indoor form of amusement; the Hall is self-supporting and in a very flourishing condition. She is also Vice-President of the Aigburth Social Guild, a Member of the Parochial Church Council and a Life Member of the Liverpool Merchant Guild. She is closely connected with many schemes for the welfare of children and is the only Woman Governor of Church Schools, a manager of the Sudley Road Council Schools and a Vice-President of the Stewart Jones Children's Evening Homes, where the poor children are taken from the streets at night given free meals and shelter and taught some useful occupation.

To the Cathedral of Liverpool Mrs. Temple gave the fine clergy stalls which surround the Bishop's throne. In St. Anne's Church at Aigburth she has put in a beautiful stained glass window to the memory of her husband. She has also given a credence table to this Church and the decorative panelling which surrounds the chancel with its escutcheons of old design. On one of these appears the arms of the late Mr. Temple; on another there are a few lines relating how these decorations were given by Mrs. Temple to complete the work which Mr. Temple had begun. The latter was a prominent citizen of Liverpool and was decorated by the King for many years of confidential service to the Admiralty; he was a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath and Mrs. Temple counts among her greatest treasures the decoration pinned on by the King.

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