

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRESIDENT.

It is with special pleasure that, by the gracious permission of Her Royal Highness, we reproduce the accompanying charming portrait of our President, the Princess Arthur of Connaught, R.R.C., S.R.N., in her uniform as a trained nurse and wearing the Decoration of the Royal Red Cross.

GOOD FORTUNE FOR THE HELENA BENEVOLENT FUND AND THE GENERAL FUND OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The Helena Benevolent Fund has been having a time of great good fortune just recently, and we are all the more pleased about this because there is a general tendency, on the part of our Members, to concentrate on helping the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund. This last does splendid work but we must not forget that the former Fund comes forward month by month to help various Members of the Association in times of illness or great emergency and for years its resources have been taxed to the uttermost. It was a matter of great satisfaction, therefore, to the Executive Committee when it was reported, at a recent Meeting, that the Helena Benevolent Fund was to receive a legacy of £1,500 under the will of the late Miss Annie Armstrong who was a Member of the Association, and whose death we recently announced in these columns. She also left the residue of her estate to the Fund, after payment of other legacies; the total sum accruing to the Helena Benevolent Fund under the will is, we are informed, likely to be £1,671. The Association is to pay the interest arising from this amount to an old nurse (in whom Miss Armstrong was interested) during her lifetime and after that the money will be administered for the benefit of our sick and aged Members absolutely.

Another pleasant surprise was the gift to the same Fund of £100 from the Temple Endowment Fund and we owe warm thanks to Mrs. John Temple, also a Member of the Association, for generously sending to us this handsome donation from her late husband's Trust.

The General Fund of the Corporation has likewise had its share of good fortune, for under the will of the late Miss A. L. Dorrell, it is to receive £100. Miss Dorrell too, was a Member of the Association, one who, in her lifetime, took a great interest in all its activities.

Thus the Royal British Nurses Association has through the generosity of its Members, become the richer by the handsome sum of £1,871 in 1929, which proves in what sincere affection it was and is held by them.

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY.

The "Birthday Party" held on the anniversary of the foundation of the Association was not quite so well attended this year as formerly, but it was a very merry gathering nevertheless. The "birthday cake" was specially beautiful with a replica of the badge and the old motto "Steadfast and True" worked in the icing over a spray of crimson

roses. As the members came in each lit a candle, and while the arch of candles was burning the party joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne."

Then Miss Margaret Huxley, M.A., one of the Founder Members of the Association, cut the cake, and it soon began to grow "beautifully less." We cut off a portion to send over to the Founder of the Association, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and then others began to think of old Members who could not be present, and mysterious little parcels were tied up carefully and taken away so that the "Birthday Party" might be enlarged. Unfortunately the Founder of the Association was unable to be present, so a special entertainment was prepared for her round the telephone for which the new gramophone was requisitioned. But "the best laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft a-gley," and the storm had played havoc with the telephone connections, so we ignominiously scrapped a musical programme and "shouldered" the gramophone back to its place again.

CHRISTMAS AT HEADQUARTERS.

Christmas was celebrated at the Club with all the usual enthusiasm for the recognition of time-honoured customs and tradition and with the obvious determination, too, on the part of all those who were in residence, to make it a time of happy memories of good comradeship. About a week before Christmas Day a fine Christmas tree arrived which, standing on the hall floor, touched the ceiling; a smaller one came at the same time for the domestic staff. These were gifts from Miss Treasure, who rose to the occasion at this season with an energy which puts the rest of us to shame. She soon transformed the sombre green branches into a glittering splendour and a lovely fairy appeared on the topmost bough with silver wings and a silver star on her wand; the latter was so delicate as to be almost invisible, thereby producing an "optical illusion" that made the star appear as though it floated in space, shining down on the group that always gathers about the hall fire. The tree irresistibly brought to our mind what we had read of Lutheran times, when a Christmas tree with its candles was the symbol of the light that shines from the Tree of Life and the habit of hanging gifts upon it had not yet arisen. Someone who could not be with us on Christmas night said that the sight of our tree, as she saw it from the doorstep on a dark night, will always remain one of her happy memories of her "home from home"; we all thank Miss Treasure and other good colleagues for pictures that shall remain in the sunny places of memory. The postmen, as usual, had a strenuous time, for Nurses have a great wealth of friendship and the hall fireside becomes a place of perpetual thrills, as envelopes and parcels are opened.

At last all the shopping was done and the last postman's ring on Christmas eve was answered; some went off to midnight services, others less energetic preferred to go to Church in the morning. The breakfast table was a chorus of "merry Christmases" and friends "blew in" during the day to wish the old, old wish. At four o'clock, guests, who

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