

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Corporation took place at 194, Queen's Gate, on June 26th, at 3.30 p.m. Miss Beatrice Cutler was in the Chair.

The long report of the Executive Committee dealt with activities and events which have already been fully reported in our official organ, and it gave evidence of a very great amount of work accomplished by the Committee. A member expressed the view that the report was, in some sense, a reward for several more than usually long sittings of the committee throughout the year. One fact was, through the report, brought into prominence, namely, that the Association had not chosen as a body of nurses to remain dumb when events arose which were calculated to endanger privileges already won or to retard the development of further privileges, which ought to belong to a profession. Some may prefer the easy and "ladylike" course of not making trouble with the idea of thereby courting a greater popularity, but the report of our Committee indicates that its policy has been to be on guard and to let no proposals or decisions likely to prove inimical to the interests of the nurses to pass unchallenged; thus the Committee has on many occasions opposed such proposals and decisions and frequently with good effect.

The Financial Report of the General Fund of the Corporation showed that the income had exceeded the expenditure by the sum of £225 18s. 6d. This does not include a legacy of £100 left to the General Fund by Miss Amy Louisa Dorell. The reports of the Benevolent Funds were also excellent, both indicating a considerable excess of income over expenditure; the Helena Benevolent Fund has been particularly fortunate, having received a legacy which, on receipt of the full amount accruing to the Association, reaches over £1,670. Most of this sum is held in trust for the present on behalf of an aged nurse, who is to receive the income from it during her lifetime, when the capital sum will fall to the Helena Benevolent Fund absolutely. Towards the close of the year an intimation was received from Mrs. John Temple that she was arranging for a gift of £100 to this Fund from the Temple Endowment Fund. It was also stated that the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund had increased its investments by the sum of £1,000 during the year. In seconding the Treasurer's Report, Miss Villiers said that she thought it a very remarkable thing that in one year the Association should receive legacies and a special gift amounting in all to nearly £2,000, and she considered that the most satisfactory and praiseworthy aspect of this was that all this money came from members of the Association. She felt that members that afternoon must feel a great pride indeed because of this fact. It was indicative of the independent and generous spirit with which the members themselves maintain the economic stability of their Association and enable it to meet the expenses which an organisation such as this cannot hope to evade if it is adequately to carry on its work in the profession.

The result of the ballot was announced and the following were elected to fill vacancies occurring on the General

Council under Bye-law XVII. We place the names in the order of election.

Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses:—Misses Anice Gray, Margaret Breay, Margaret Huxley, Florence Campbell, Margaret Winstanley, Winifred Solomon, Minnie Drakard, Helen Lamb, Catherine Wills, Margaret Hirst.

Sisters and Nurses:—Misses Cecilia Liddiatt, Beatrice Treasure, Ella Swaby Smith, Harriet Hewson, Florence Kirkby, Norah Lennon, Edith Pelham Williams, Gladys Porter, Mrs. Hugh Robson, Mrs. Annie Watkins Price.

Medical Men:—Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Beddard, Dr. Currie, Sir Stanley Hewett, Dr. D. MacIntyre, Mr. Leslie Paton, Dr. Eric Pritchard, Sir A. Rice-Oxley, Mr. Jocelyn Swan, Dr. Woodall.

Messrs. Pittman & Aris (chartered accountants) were re-appointed as auditors for the coming year.

Miss Elma Smith moved and Miss Schuller seconded a vote of thanks to the honorary officers. Tea was provided and several members who had come up from the country expressed great pleasure at meeting again many of their old friends.

ASSISTANT "NURSES."

At the meeting of our Executive Committee on June 20th, Miss Cattell drew attention to a most serious danger to the interests of the sick and the economics of the nurses. It is by no means a new one, but recently it has become infinitely more serious. Miss Cattell referred, in fact, to a more or less new aspect which the "quack menace" has assumed. We have referred *ad nauseam* to the practice, common in certain proprietary institutions for the nursing of the sick, of employing inadequately trained women and entrusting them with the care of people in great crises of illness. Year after year large fees have been charged to patients for "nurses," whose uniform only serves to hide a colossal ignorance of the duties required of them; the higher the fees, the less is the patient likely to suspect such ignorance. However, this is not precisely the aspect of the question which Miss Cattell raised in Committee. Her complaint is—and many of her colleagues feel equally strongly on the point—that the great State and Voluntary Hospitals are actually putting the seal of their approval on inefficiency by employing large numbers of women whom they speak of as "Assistant Nurses," who are not so qualified as to justify their being permitted to care for the sick. Some of them have not fulfilled the recognised period of training while others have failed, under examination, to show that they have attained to the *minimum* standard of knowledge which the State itself recognises as adequate.

Miss Cattell stated that several of her colleagues had drawn her attention to an advertisement which appeared recently in the *Nursing Mirror* offering to nurses *who had failed in the State Examinations* the same remuneration as that given to Certificated Nurses. Many of us dislike the publication of controversial correspondence under a *nom de plume*, but what about a case such as this where you actually have someone hiding under the cloak of an advertisement

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)