

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## THE PURITY OF THE STATE REGISTER.

The following is a letter which was sent by the Association to a Medical Man who has shown interest in our contention that the purity of the Register should be maintained by the exclusion from it of Nurses who have been proved guilty of theft. We are instructed by the Executive Committee to insert it as expressing the views of this Association on the matter:—

DEAR SIR,—We learn that you have suggested the expediency of asking a question in the House of Commons on a matter which is causing Registered Nurses grave anxiety in connection with the maintenance of the purity of their State Register. I refer to the fact that the General Nursing Council has, on two separate occasions, and in opposition to the frankly expressed opinions of the Nurses, failed to remove from the State Register the name of a Nurse convicted of theft.

I am directed to say that the Royal British Nurses' Association would welcome any help you can give us in the matter of having a question put. My Committee consider that the publicity so given would tend towards safeguarding the status and prestige of the State Register in the future.

I may add that we have, in connection with this Association, a large Club for Nurses, and the private nurses there maintain that the General Nursing Council is placing them in a most defenceless position in view of the fact that they enter the homes of their patients in times of emergency, and frequently the only guarantee of their fitness to enter on positions of great trust is the fact that they can claim to be Nurses Registered by the State. They quite justly maintain that the laxity shown in allowing thieves to remain on the State Register is a most grave menace to their status and to the confidence with which they are received in the homes of the public.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ISABEL MACDONALD, *Secretary.*

## AN INVITATION TO LAMBETH PALACE.

On a recent date, by invitation of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the "Ramblers" paid a visit to Lambeth Palace and met with great courtesy there. Quite a long afternoon was spent in viewing this historic place. The library in particular was full of attraction and many priceless volumes were taken down from their shelves for our inspection; never have we seen such an enormous collection of Bibles and we examined the Polyglot Bible in particular with great interest. In the glass cases were many treasures and of special charm were some most beautiful illuminated copies of the Gospels, one of them over 1,000 years old. Another attraction was the Archbishop's dining room with its walls covered with

portraits of the Archbishops throughout the centuries. Here are representative works by great English painters of the middle ages, of Reynolds, Romney, and the like, and last of all comes Sargent with his speaking portrait of Archbishop Davidson.

The ceilings and carvings in the Palace are unique and in going round we received from our kind guide a very liberal education on Church history.

## THE NEED FOR CO-OPERATION IN PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS.

We have had few fixtures of our own at Headquarters since the New Year opened, partly because the Christmas festivities at various hospitals have kept the nurses so busy. Since then an invasion of house decorators has rather curtailed the space available for having many gatherings. On page 41 we have inserted a list of fixtures and, in spite of the fact that we have now entered upon what is probably the busiest season of the year, we hope that the nurses will be able to find time to take a really active part in all our activities. There are many schemes and questions of interest to the Profession which the Association takes up from time to time and we want all the co-operation possible from the Members.

We have in our organisation many centres of activity which may not have appeal for all Members alike, yet to each person there must be some door open, some section of our work upon which she can concentrate energy. Phillips Brooks has said that no man has come to true greatness until he realises that his life belongs to the race, and certainly no man attains to happiness until he can step out of himself. Recently we listened to a robust Christian who evidently had the faculty of preaching into the everyday lives of his people, and he drew an analogy between certain products of manufacture and the lives of individuals. He called attention to the fact that frequently the actual products aimed at in some process were of less value than the by-products produced in the course of the manufacture of that particular product; glycerine, for instance, had a greater value than soap. Thus it was with individuals; many were making contributions to world development of infinitely greater value to humanity than those arising from what was regarded as their real work in life; the work whereby they obtained their means of existence.

The best work is always that which is never paid for; that work, in fact, which might be regarded as the by-product of one's life. The Association offers to the Members opportunity to contribute something of value to their profession of Nursing beyond that arising from the branch of nursing they follow. In the Association are centralised many activities all ready for still further development. Many Members have, in the past, been most kind in promoting our social activities, and thus have helped to strengthen the ties of friendship and good will which are essential to the well-being of any society. Others have devoted many an hour of their leisure time to one or other

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