

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

INVITATION.

The Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association will be "At Home" to Members of the British College of Nurses and to Members of the Association on Tuesday, April 8th, at 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., from 4 to 6 p.m. They request Members of the two bodies to take this notice as an invitation to be present.

DEATH OF THE NURSE HONORARY SECRETARY, MISS A. CARSON RAE, R.G.N.

Swiftly, silently, there has passed through the Gate of Death another of those who "kept the faith" through the long struggle to raise nursing to the platform of the professions and to the attainment of self-government in order that it might become a responsible organism in the general march of evolution. Scarcely did she feel the chill of that "short, dark passage to a future state" as Dryden called it. With startling suddenness to all of us came the news of her passing, for exactly a week before she had represented the Association in the Deputation to the Medical Committee of the House of Commons. She spent the greater part of the day then at Queen's Gate, to all appearance perfectly well and almost more than usually interested and enthusiastic about all happenings at the Club. She chatted brightly with one and another and seemed a centre of friendliness and kindness; indeed, had we planned her farewell to us all, it could hardly have been more indicative of the good will and affection of the Members of the Association. They will miss her kindly presence and her ready participation in all their social affairs. As Nurse Honorary Secretary she was always to be relied upon whenever help was required, whether it might be in connection with promoting the policy of the Association, presiding at some lecture or conference, or, last but not least, moving about among us at some social gathering and chatting with Members old and new, giving to them all the impression that the individual interested her as much as the Association; many will echo the remark of one of her closest friends in the Profession: "She was indeed a cheery little soul, always ready to come to the help of others." And as such we think of her now when her spirit has left its earthly dwelling to expand into the "angelic consciousness" and the immensity of eternity.

It is difficult to say whether England or Ireland owes the greater debt to Miss Carson Rae. She was trained at the Westminster Hospital, London. In 1895 she took up the duties of Assistant Matron of the Cork Fever Hospital and soon became its Lady Superintendent, an appointment which she held for twelve years. In 1911 she was appointed Secretary of the Irish Nurses' Hostel and proved herself a most able administrator, careful in every detail, and she maintained both departments of the Institution in a state of very high efficiency. After eleven

years of hard work in the Nurses' interests in Ireland she retired and returned to London in 1922, but she never lost her sense of responsibility to her profession nor ceased to participate in its affairs.

Miss Carson Rae's capacity for friendship was one of her most pronounced characteristics. Another friend writing of her says: "Hers was a delightful personality, full of life and interested in so many things. She had a wealth of affection for her friends and those who enjoyed her friendship found it steadfast and unchanging. It is difficult to realise the loss of one with a mind so vivid and eager. I like to remember her rare gift of taking pleasure in even the smallest things. A glimpse of the sea, perhaps just the beauty of a tree, those were a joy to her." And she brought the same bright optimism to her work; on our Executive Committee to-day we mourn that one of its clearest brains is lost to us and one of its readiest tongues is stilled, that the shadow of another parting is upon us, though who can say that she, with her wide sympathies, may not be able to strengthen and help still more from the spirit land those with whom she laboured here? Probably the wide circle of friendships which Miss Carson Rae enjoyed was very largely due to her capacity for projecting herself into the interests of others; she had great freedom in this sense for she was no egoist, no "tenant of a cage" as some writer has put it, but she let her mind and her interests expand to every person and every activity around her. Therefore it is not surprising to find that she was a valued member of many different organisations, each with its particular functions and aspirations; she took a very keen interest in the National Council of Women and rarely missed a meeting of any of its committees upon which she served. No one worked more consistently or loyally for the Nurses' Registration Acts. Her last public act was one of service to the Royal British Nurses' Association, one calculated to help towards the preservation of the purity of the State Register and the maintenance of an ethical standard consistent with its dignity and functions in the body politic.

Her aspirations for her profession were high and she had in her lifetime the privilege of seeing many of them materialise. Therefore, of Annie Carson Rae we might say, in the words of the father of modern science, Francis Bacon: "Above all, believe it, the sweetest canticle is Nunc Dimittis when a man has attained to worthy ends and expectations."

THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

The Executive Committee will shortly proceed to make arrangements for the election of Members to fill vacancies on the General Council in accordance with the provisions of Bye-law xvii. Will Members kindly forward, before April 14th, the names of those whom they wish to nominate. Please note that Members of the Association only are eligible for nomination and election to the Council.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)