

**RAMBLE TO GREENWICH.**

A Ramble was arranged conjointly by the Royal British Nurses' Association and the British College of Nurses for Thursday, February 20th. We drove by charabanc to the Royal Observatory, through the beautiful Greenwich Park and were shown all the wonders there with the greatest courtesy by the Secretary. The original structure of the Royal Observatory stands on the hill and was built in 1676; the site was chosen by Wren himself who, it is to be remembered, added the science of astronomy to his other great acquirements. Not the least interesting part of what we saw in the Observatory was the collection of portraits of the many Astronomers Royal, commencing with John Flamsteed, the clergyman-scientist (appointed Astronomer Royal by Charles II), who equipped the Observatory with the help of friends; it received no Government Grants in those days, and his salary was £100. The Observatory was founded originally for the advancement of navigation and nautical astronomy, and several of the wonderful old instruments and clocks, used in this connection, were shown to us. We also saw a large collection of chronometers and watches because Greenwich Observatory is still responsible for the supply, repair and synchronism of the chronometers and watches of the Admiralty. The time-ball was set up partly to enable the captains of departing ships to set their chronometers and the ball is raised to half mast at fifteen minutes to one, to the top at two minutes to the hour and precisely at one o'clock it falls. We were shown an anemometer which registers the direction and force of the wind. The great telescopes appeared to be of special interest to the "Rambblers" and we spent a long time in having those explained to us in great detail; photographs of comets and other astronomical wonders proved also exceedingly interesting and likewise the instrument which is responsible for the time signal from Greenwich which is sent over the world by the B.B.C.

After exploring the Observatory we went on to the Royal Naval School where Miss Richardson, a Member of the Royal British Nurses' Association who had held an appointment there, waited to show us some of the wonders of the Chapel, and the veteran on duty imparted to us a great deal of interesting information. First of all were shown us, with great pride, the trestle upon which Nelson lay after the Battle of Trafalgar, resting under the only corkscrew staircase in England which is without supports, and which was designed by Christopher Wren. We saw the marvellous butterfly window by Wren, but, in order to fully appreciate this, one must view it in perspective from the upper end of the chapel itself; its tracery is truly exquisite. The marvellous carved mahogany doors set in a portal of sculptured marble and which open into the Chapel are said to be without parallel in any country. Just inside the entrance is a portico of six fluted columns which support the organ gallery, each column is fifteen feet high and is formed of a single block of veined marble. On each side of the organ gallery stand four grand columns of scagliola and at the opposite end of the chapel are four others of a similar kind supporting the roof. We were told that 58 experts from all parts of the world came to view this marvellous organ loft. The altar was described to us as unique and is supported by six cherubim beautifully carved in stone that looks like bronze. Above is the painting by West representing the shipwreck of St. Paul on the Isle of Malta. The pulpit is one of the chief features of the Church and was made by a man who could neither read nor write; yet he has left behind him this treasure of art unique of its kind. It is very richly carved on beautiful wood and our guide pointed out to us one of its chief wonders—the extraordinary perfection of the dove-tailing in its staircase rail. Here, as everywhere,

the wood was exquisite. Our guide who is responsible for the care of it was justly proud of its beauty, never have we seen such gems of old wood kept in such perfection and the chapel looked like a shimmering expanse of shining wood and beautiful marble. From the altar end of the chapel the aisle, with its marble font (carved by a convict) and the exquisite Wren window beyond form one of the well known masonic signs and the decorated and gilded ceiling with its intricate carving all contribute to make the chapel one of the most beautiful edifices in this country.

We were greatly privileged in being allowed to view the gold plate belonging to the chapel; this is not usually shown to visitors; some of the great cups and salvers date back to 1504. Especially interesting was the Cromwell chalice and a claret cup for which one man gave all his wealth in order to donate it to the chapel. One large and curious piece of gold, shovel-shaped and very heavy, is supposed to be an old food taster which was used to test the king's food in case poison might have been added to it. And last, but not least, we were shown the gold mace with which Queen Anne opened the Houses of Parliament. From the chapel we went on to the Queen's House, built by Inigo Jones. We explored some of its beautiful rooms, admired the frescoed ceiling in the Queen's bedroom by Gentileschi and the beautiful carved wooden ceiling in the tapestry room in which there are other very beautifully moulded Jacobean ceilings. Unfortunately the limitations of time prevented us from visiting the painted hall at the Naval School and also from visiting the grave of Wolfe in a church near by. Perhaps at some future time we may be able to arrange another and more comprehensive ramble to Greenwich.

**CLUB FIXTURES.**

On Wednesday, March 12th, we are to have a Ramble to Canterbury, and Miss Edith Fowler is very kindly making arrangements so that we may see all the most interesting places possible in the time which we have to spare; she has been able to secure the help of a friend who has a great knowledge of the history and the things of beauty in the Cathedral City. Tickets for the return journey by charabanc will be 7s. 6d., and for particulars as to the hour of leaving 194, Queen's Gate and other details, application should be made to the Secretary.

As will be noted from the Notices on page i, Miss Liddiatt will be "At Home" to members and friends on Wednesday, March 19th, from 4 to 6 p.m. We hope that many will be able to be present.

On Wednesday, March 26th, at 3 p.m., Miss Macdonald will lecture on "The Romance of Nursing History," and show lantern slides. There will be a collection at the lecture to help to defray expenses which we have incurred in purchasing a new screen.

On Tuesday, April 8th, from 4 to 6 p.m., the Council of the Association will be "At Home" to Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association and the British College of Nurses, and we hope that many will be able to attend.

**DONATIONS.****General Purposes Fund.**

Mrs. M. Eeles, 10s.; Miss M. Gillespie, 9s. 6d.; Mrs. A. Bayly, Misses A. McG. Campbell, 5s.; Mrs. J. Welch, 4s. 6d.; Miss I. Robertson, 4s.; Misses E. Dawson, M. Whitmore, R.R.C., 1s.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

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