

## TOUR OF THE GREEK SCULPTURE.

Quite a large number of Members of the R.B.N.A. met in the British Museum on Friday, March 13th, for the specially arranged tour of the Greek Sculpture there, and they were conducted through centuries of beautiful sculpture and architecture from a period dating from 700 B.C.; they deeply appreciated the courtesy of the lecturer and his obvious desire to make the tour as interesting as possible to the nurses.

The greatest power against which the Greeks had to contend was the Persian Empire, and the greatest of the battles between the two nations was that of Salamis. We were told how, after this battle, the Greeks returned to find their city in ashes, burnt by their enemies, and, with Kipling-like psychology, those ancients decided to build up a new and more beautiful Athens. We were shown a model of the Parthenon which stands in the finest position in Athens, on the Acropolis; this building is about the size of St. Martin's Church and was built between 430 and 400 B.C. At that time Pericles, the greatest statesman of his age, was collecting money for the Greek fleet and he held, with doubtful probity, that any money not required for the navy could be used to beautify Athens. Ictinus was the architect of the Parthenon and his works have given inspiration to generations of men who, in later ages, worked in his particular branch of art; the architecture of the Greeks was copied by the early Christians in the fifth century, but after that the Gothic became popular; then, in the Renaissance, the Greek style was revived again.

Models of two theatres, near the Parthenon, were shown us by the lecturer, who remarked that the plans for all theatres were derived from those of the ancient Greeks. In the originals of the theatres, shown in the models, Euripides, Sophocles and Æschylus were played. Pheidias and his pupils were the sculptors of the Parthenon, which is built entirely of marble; in it stood the statue of Athena, which was destroyed by the early Christians. This statue, said the lecturer, was so large that, had it been preserved to find a home among the other Greek statues in the British Museum, it would have reached beyond the roof of the building. It must have been a wonderful conception with the face and arms all of ivory, the eyes of jewels and the remainder of the figure covered with gold plate.

We were given minute descriptions of the cella (interior), the peristyle (colonnade), the pediments (groups), the metopes (panels) and the frieze with its representation running through 524 feet, a length of beautiful ornaments showing the people of Athens going up to the Panathenaic festival to offer a new robe to their great goddess. The Olympic Gods were invited to be present at this festival and are shown as sitting about in quite comfortable attitudes while Athena is indicated as talking amicably to one of them; a priest is holding the peplos, the robe which was presented to the goddess every four years. We should have known little about the ancient customs of the Greeks but for the fact that a traveller in the second century left many details regarding them. Athena was the goddess of wisdom and was created by Zeus.

Greece was conquered by Rome in the second century, which absorbed, as is the way of victors, a great deal of the culture of the conquered. We were shown, in the model, the hill Aeropagites, where St. Paul preached. The lecturer reminded us that, although born a Greek Jew, Paul was a Roman citizen and very proud of that fact.

The Greeks were conquered by the Turks in the 5th Century and most of their wonderful statues were destroyed. The Parthenon was a Christian Church for a thousand years and then the Turks, after taking Constantinople, captured Athens. In a war with Venice, they had stored their powder in the Parthenon, and the Venetians, knowing this, dropped a mortar upon it and reduced it to its present condition of ruins.

The story of the Elgin Marbles with all its fascination

was recounted to us and then we went on to view some models of ancient tombs and great statues of Mausolus and his wife Artemisia; especially interesting was the frieze showing the struggle between the Greeks and the Amazons. Perhaps what struck us most of all was the extraordinary feeling for form that these ancient artists must have possessed, the beautiful heads they carved and their understanding of the adjustments and proportions required to produce a lovely building.

## OBITUARY.

We have received with deep regret intimation of the death of Miss Eva M. Penrose. Miss Penrose joined the South Australian Branch in 1910 and for several years she was its Secretary. Her work met with much appreciation and she was a close friend of Miss Graham, then Matron of the Adelaide Hospital, and of our present Lady Consul in South Australia, Mrs. M. B. Martin. The latter writes of her popularity among our members and refers to her as a very fine character indeed. We regret to hear that her last illness was a very painful one.

## DONATIONS—GENERAL PURPOSES FUND.

The Hon. Treasurer has received with many thanks the following Donations:—

South Australian Branch, £5; Miss Silvia Vian, £1 17s.; Miss H. Lamb, £1 9s. 6d.; Miss Banks, £1 1s.; Miss A. F. Rockett, £1; Mrs. I. Schider, 15s.; Misses L. M. Culverwell, Charlotte Machin, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Elizabeth Bell, Miss Elizabeth Carrier, Mrs. Georgina E. Lawther, Mrs. Raikes, Miss K. N. A. Royds, Mrs. Rosamond Simpson, Miss Rosemary Taylor, 10s.; Miss J. Macleod Orr, 8s.; Miss E. M. Waind, 6s.; Miss M. I. Gillespie, 5s. 6d.; Misses Emma Balding, L. A. Carter, L. Cheetham, Ellen Chippendale, Anne Eements, Mrs. K. A. Earp, Mrs. M. H. Elles, Misses Edith M. Larp, C. M. Eve, N. Farrant, B. M. Frame, I. E. Henderson, Cl. W. Holford, A. G. Jordan, G. Le Geyt, Mrs. F. L. Moore, Misses J. Mountney, Christian Orwin, Gladys C. F. Porter, Mrs. Strong, Misses Annie M. Tisdall, R. E. Titherington, 5s.; Misses A. Breen, Amy B. Curtis, 4s.; Miss McNaughton, 3s.; Miss J. C. Curtis, Mrs. C. E. Haine, Misses M. L. Harmer, F. Heap, M. Houghton, A. Johnson, Mrs. M. E. Lelean, Misses M. Lamb, M. G. Le Bailly, Edith Mawe, C. L. Ramsden, S. E. Stephenson, F. A. Waddington, A. Wilson, 2s. 6d.; Misses A. E. Briggs, H. Cargill, E. E. Glanville, E. M. Lewis, A. Palframan, A. M. Parsons, B. Ryan, T. E. Terry, 2s.; Misses Constance Clarke, E. K. McCrea, 1s. 6d.; Mrs. S. A. Aylesbury, Misses Lucy E. Bassett, Mary Bater, Evelyn J. Cope, Ellen Dawson, Edith K. Doe, B. Filley, Bertha Garner, A. A. Gilmour, F. Goodrich, G. A. Graham, Mabel Halkett, M. R. Hilgeson, Jessy M. Humphrey, E. K. Jackson, B. McDougall, A. McKell, Eva M. Maunsell, E. Osborne, R. Page-Henderson, E. B. Roberts, Mrs. L. E. Sherliker, Misses A. E. Shepherd, Maud M. Tipper, 1s.

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

Members of the Association are reminded that the Executive Committee will shortly prepare the list of nominations for the election to fill vacancies on the General Council, arising under the provisions of Bye-law XVII. We shall be glad if Members will forward to the Committee, at an early date, the names of those whose names they would like to have placed on the nomination list.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

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