

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

A meeting of the General Council was held on July 17th at 5 p.m. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick occupied the Chair. The Report of the Executive Committee, for the months of April and May, was before the meeting. Most of the items contained therein have already been referred to in the official organ of the Association. The Chairman referred in terms of sympathetic regret to the death of Miss Alice Cattell, saying that she had proved one of the most courageous, kind and generous of members.

A satisfactory Financial Report was presented by the Honorary Treasurer. Mrs. Watkin Price, in seconding the adoption of the Report, said that this Report with its very numerous items of income and expenditure, in the different sections of the Association's work, gave to the Council perhaps a clearer indication than anything else of the variety of the work which has to be covered in our offices. She was sure that the Council could not but regard the Report just presented as very satisfactory indeed. It was also reported that, subsequent to the period to which the Report referred, £100 had been repaid of the loan taken from the Association's bankers when the property at Queen's Gate was purchased.

The following were elected Honorary Officers for the ensuing year: Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.; Miss Bickerton, R.R.C., S.R.N., F.B.C.N.; Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.; Hon. Treasurer, Kenneth Stewart, Esq., M.D.; Nurse Hon. Secretary, Miss Beatrice Cutler, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.; Medical Hon. Secretary, Herbert Paterson, Esq., C.B.E., F.R.C.S. The following were elected Members of the Executive Committee (in addition to Members already serving who were re-elected) in accordance with Bye-law XIX: Dr. Disney Cran, Dr. Duff-Miller, Dr. Liston, Dr. Rice-Oxley, Mrs. John Temple, Misses R. C. Gooding, S.R.N., Allbutt, S.R.N., S. A. Villiers, S.R.N., and A. Schuller, S.R.N.

Mrs. John Temple said that she was sure the Members of the Council would wish to congratulate the Secretary on having received the Fenwick Medal of Merit. The Chairman said that the idea in presenting this medal was that it should go to those who had done outstanding work in promoting the organisation of the Nursing Profession. It has been awarded by her to the Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association in recognition of the latter's long years of untiring and unselfish work not only in connection with the Corporation but also for the Profession generally and for benevolent activities connected with it.

THE APOSTLE AND THE CREED.

WHATEVER YOUR PROFESSION IT SHOULD MAKE YOU SOMETHING THAT IS A GOOD ADVERTISEMENT OF IT. TOO OFTEN IT IS THE APOSTLE THAT KILLS THE CREED.

Dr. Percy Buck.

The above remark struck us rather forcibly when we came across it in a newspaper recently, for one or two incidents had occurred which indicated how oblivious a

certain number of nurses are to the point of view to which the quotation gives expression. The author of it is an eminent professor and doctor of music, but his remarks are at least as applicable to our profession as to any other.

The particular incident which came to our mind on reading the sentences quoted, was the following:—One of the nurses of the Association's Co-operation came in at the end of her day's work, in a frame of mind which might be described as one of "righteous indignation." She had just taken her patient into a nursing home. He happened to be a particularly cultured and dignified old gentleman, a retired General; it had become necessary for him to have an immediate operation. Conservative and reserved, he disliked exceedingly the idea of being cared for, after his operation, by strangers, but there was no help for it. Why the nurse, who first attended to him in the home, should have at once concluded that, because his hair was grey, he was also deaf is difficult to understand. However this she did assume and almost immediately he found it necessary to explain that she need not shout as his hearing was quite good. Soon, however, it is likely that he began to wish that the years might have granted to him a little more of that oblivion which age and infirmity bring; that a friendly deafness might have obliterated for him repeated and realistic references to the preparations going on for his operation in the theatre close by. Whenever something required by the nurse was not immediately forthcoming, whenever there was any call for haste or additional trouble for her, "Hell fire" was the expression wherewith she gave relief to her overburdened feelings. Before the patient had been ten minutes in bed he had become "Dear" to her and by the time the preparations for the operation were complete he was "Dad." Little wonder that the nurse, who was undertaking the day nursing, came back that evening in a state bordering on fury at "having to stand by and see the profession let down." "I could do nothing," said she; "If I had protested I should only have been consigned by her to his Satanic majesty: that I foresaw and could not risk a row between the pair of us in a sickroom."

Her story reminded me of another which we heard some months ago at the dinner table at the Club. It was told by a member who knew intimately two daughters of a famous peer who had died shortly before; he had been closely connected with the Court and the State and was, in a way, a kind of personification of all the dignity and courtesy associated so closely with high office in Victorian days. The member at our dining table spoke of the irritation felt by the two ladies, and indeed by the patient himself, when he found himself being constantly addressed as "Daddy" by the two nurses in attendance upon him during his last illness.

We heard of another patient who said that he used to find himself waiting in a state of nervous tension to get over the moment when, at the close of her period on duty in the morning, his night nurse would throw up her arm and almost shout "Cheerio" as she took her departure.

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