

## WHERE TO GO.

MR. and MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT. Under the management of Mr. Alfred German Reed and Mr. Corney Grain. "The Old Bureau," written by H. M. Paul, Music by Alfred J. Caldicott; a new Entertainment; followed by Mr. Corney Grain's New Musical Sketch, entitled, "A Fancy Dress Ball." Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at Eight; Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at Three.—Stalls, 5s. and 3s.; Admission, 2s. and 1s. Box-office open ten to six.—St. George's H. II, Langham Place, W.

**Royal British Nurses' Association.**

A SPECIAL Council Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association was held at 20, Hanover Square, W., at 4.30 p.m., on Monday, February 8th. At the request of H.R.H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, the President of the Association, the chair was taken by Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH: The next matter is the reception of any voting papers, which have not yet been sent in; and to appoint three scrutineers to examine and report upon them. I will ask Dr. GAGE-BROWN, Mr. LANGTON, and Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK to be so good as to act as Scrutineers.

The voting then took place.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK: The Executive Committee begs to report to this Council that at its last meeting the following Resolution was unanimously carried: "That the suggestion of the President of the Board of Trade that the Association should apply to the Privy Council for an inquiry with a view to obtain incorporation should be adopted; it being understood that this course implies an application for the grant of a Royal Charter, the Executive Committee recommends the Council to authorise it to take this course."

The CHAIRMAN: I formally propose this resolution: "That this meeting adopts the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and authorises it to take such steps to obtain a Royal Charter as may appear to the Committee to be most advisable." I suppose there is not anyone amongst us to-day who is not familiar with the history of this Association since its formation, now upwards of four years ago. Indeed, the Association is entering upon its fifth year. Some of us thought, perhaps, that it started with too large a measure of ambition, and that it was almost pretentious in its aims, and in its hopes for the results of its work. We find, however, looking back through the years, that a great deal has been done, and that the Association has already carried

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out the greater part of what it originally proposed to do. Without doubt, we may say, upon the whole, that it has been very successful. We all know that that work has not proceeded without exciting opposition in its various stages. Still, if that work is good in itself, and is done as it ought to be by those qualified for it, then, as history shows us, aims of that character generally fulfil their purpose and attain all they aspire to, in due time. It is well known that a few months ago a request was made formally to the Board of Trade to secure our incorporation and was practically refused. Measures were taken to see whether that decision could not be reconsidered, but this was found to be impossible. The doors were shut against us, so to speak. Now, it seems that the time has come in the history of the Association when we must either go backwards or forwards, and I think no one belonging to the Royal British Nurses' Association, and aware of its value and usefulness, would hear of retreating. Therefore, we stand committed to go forward, and we mean to go forward. I hope we shall do this in a very united and firm manner, calmly, because we have nothing to be excited about; fearlessly, because we have nothing to fear, and, in short, with a British spirit of determination which will take no refusal, and means to succeed. The first essential in this world is to know what you want, and then to take steps for getting it in a wise and prudent way. It should be a rule never to look backward, but to go forward unceasingly until the goal is reached. Our cause is good, and therefore it is difficult to believe that we shall be finally refused. We think that this Association, and all connected with it, are eminently fitted to do the work that lies before it. We do not believe there are others who can do this work better than we can; indeed, if such people exist, I can only say that I do not know them, and have never come across them. Our Association consists of those who are acquainted with the needs of the nursing profession, who have worked at it day and night, who have had large experience and gone through the best schools of nursing. Such a body as this cannot go very far wrong or be much mistaken in knowing what is best for Nurses. Our work was not devised by two or three people only, but was the outcome of a great deal of thought on the part of many. We represent many of the great London Hospitals, though not all—for very obvious reasons—and we represent many of the provincial Hospitals. Thus we can draw upon a very large amount of experience, more, indeed, I believe, than can any other professional body. We can, undoubtedly, command greater attention and more confidence from the public, if we succeed in obtaining a

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