

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

A MUCH PRIZED GIFT.

Members of the Corporation will learn with great pleasure that Her Majesty the Queen has sent a most beautiful signed photograph of herself to the Association. Her Royal Highness the President has been graciously pleased, on behalf of the Association, to convey to Her Majesty a message of respectful and sincere thanks for this gift, which will always be much treasured by the Association.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Corporation will be held at 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Thursday, June 23rd, at 3.0 p.m. With the Notice of Meeting we are sending out the list of nominations to fill vacancies on the General Council and it will facilitate business, in connection with the meeting, very much if Members will return their voting papers as soon as possible.

MISS MARGARET BREAY.

Members of the Association have heard with much pleasure that Miss Margaret Breay is making good progress and, through the Official Organ, we would express our good wishes to her that she may soon be sufficiently recovered to pick up again the threads of all the different interests which have absorbed so much of her time and energy throughout her professional life. Miss Breay was one of the signatories to our Royal Charter of Incorporation and therefore, apart from all that she has done for nurses and nursing, she is one of the real architects of the Association.

We are glad to hear that she is greatly enjoying the lovely sunshine and the sea at Worthing and one cannot but feel that this enjoyment is enhanced by the consciousness that so much has been accomplished by the devotion, loyalty and labour that she has put into the ideal of creating a profession. "Him I love who craves the impossible," and Miss Breay was one of those who had, for nurses, the vision that brought Professional Organisation and State Recognition into the realm of the possible. What is a heresy in one age is very often a platitude in the next, and so we can imagine that this pioneer can really enjoy a compulsory period of rest and smile because the heresies of her pioneer years are the platitudes of to-day.

UNFAIR COMPETITION.

We have had several comments on a recent article on the above subject all indicative of the fact that persistent and unremitting effort is required to educate the public on the extent to which they are hoodwinked into employing women who use the title of nurse as a means of obtaining a livelihood, although they do not meet the requirements of the State (as defined by the Rules under the Registration Acts) to constitute their recognition as qualified nurses. One Member stresses the fact that the position of affairs, to which our article drew attention, is one very prevalent

in the provinces and she states that apparently doctors take little trouble to enquire into the credentials of nurses whom they find on their doorsteps and who profess "to work on their own." Their independence is all too often a matter of necessity rather than choice and frequently they have but the faintest claim to the possession of nursing knowledge.

Our correspondent tells of one such case when a "nurse" was employed to work with her at an operation for appendicitis. Luckily the patient slept well at night and, also luckily, this second nurse was only too anxious that, as far as possible, all treatment and personal attention should be left for the day nurse. Our correspondent expresses thankfulness for this for her assistant had apparently no knowledge of asepsis and the one consolation lay in the fact that "she permitted me to show her how to give the bed pan and did not create a scene." This amiable lady charged four guineas for her week's services; she had stated that she had trained at a certain hospital in London but enquiry proved that she was quite unknown to it. Our correspondent draws attention to the irony of the fact that elderly nurses with years of experience are often compelled to take twenty-five shillings to two guineas as their fee while, owing to the ignorance that prevails, others are employed whose only hall-mark of efficiency is an exaggerated style of uniform and the impudence to charge for what it does not lie in their power to give—*skilled* care to the sick.

LANTERN LECTURE.

THE BEAUTY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE.

By Mr. Francis Eeles.

We had a fascinating lantern lecture recently by Mr. Eeles when he showed us many slides presenting a variety of lovely English scenes; others gave evidence of how such scenes are often deprived of their loveliness by the lack of artistic perception and an appreciation of beauty on the part of municipal or parochial bodies, architects and the public generally. The destruction resulting therefrom and the effort to make money easily is causing us to live on a capital (*i.e.*, the beauty of rural England) that can never be replaced. The numbers of factories going up, for instance, need not be curtailed, but they might be better arranged, and straggling, mean houses along the roadside cause the loss of a beauty that, by a little thought, might be transformed rather than destroyed. Advertisements with vivid inartistic colouring and petrol pumps in hideous shades often ruin the beauty of the countryside; garages might often be removed further from the roads with advantages both to the preservation of a landscape's beauty and the avoidance of traffic blocks. Examples of ugly architecture in modern dwelling houses were shown and criticised.

Much admiration was expressed of many views of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)