

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## GREETINGS FROM H.R.H. THE PRESIDENT.

DEAR MISS MACDONALD.—Will you please convey to the Members my warm good wishes that they may all have a very happy Christmas and that much prosperity may be theirs in the coming year. Especially I would like you to send to the sick and aged Members, to whom you may be sending gifts from the Benevolent Funds at Christmas time, my sympathy and my good wishes.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) ALEXANDRA,  
*President.*

## CHRISTMAS DAY.

We are arranging for Christmas dinner at the Club on the evening of Saturday, December 24th. Will Members who wish to be present kindly communicate with the Secretary?

## REMEMBRANCE DAY.

Lady Rice-Oxley asked us to convey to the Members who helped on Remembrance Day her very sincere thanks for their great kindness in supporting her in the work of selling poppies. Miss Elsie Armstrong had the largest collection, and we are not surprised as she worked indefatigably throughout the day.

## GOOD FORTUNE FOR A MEMBER.

We were pleased to note that Mr. Henry Reynolds Goring, of the Beacon Hotel, Crowborough, has left Miss Mary Elizabeth Grundy, a Member of the Association, three-sevenths of his estate. We congratulate her very sincerely upon this recognition of her devotion and efficiency.

## LECTURE.

Members are reminded of the lecture to be given at 194, Queen's Gate, on Wednesday, 14th inst., at 3 p.m., by Dr. Fenton, Medical Officer for the Royal Borough of Kensington. The subject of the lecture will be "The Promotion of Health and Happiness by Local Authorities." The subject is one of great importance and interest and we much appreciate the kindness of Dr. Fenton in sparing us some of his valuable time to give this lecture. We hope that every Member who can will make a point of being present.

## ONCE THE BALL IS SET ROLLING.

There appears to be considerable confusion in the minds of many nurses as to the issues which pertain to the present election of the General Nursing Council. We hear the idea constantly repudiated (by those who wish to divide the preliminary examination of the Council), that any scheme of theirs will have, as its effect, the destruction of the one portal system; but we get no very logical arguments or assurances from them on the point, nor any indication that they regard the one portal system as vital to the efficient working of an Act in which it was, and is still, one of the main pillars. It was a principle which those, who for years paid and suffered for the establishment of this reform, regarded as one of the essentials in the framework of any Act for the State Registration of Nurses, and the elimination of such a point in their policy would have stood for the collapse of that framework.

But one aspect, resulting partly from the somewhat nebulous indications and suggestions upon which certain candidatures for election are based, seems to give rise to a good deal of speculation and discussion on the part of the rank and file of the electorate, a good deal of mystification, too, we fear. This aspect appears because of a more or less tentative suggestion which has arisen, that subjects such as anatomy, physiology and hygiene should be taught by members of quite a different profession, *i.e.*, the school teachers. By some people this is already taken as a direct question as to whether nurses are to be found, in sufficient numbers, who are competent to teach these subjects, and so we gather already that, if this branch of teaching is handed over, the Sister Tutors must look for a certain loss of prestige. But there are other and even more important aspects to be glimpsed and guarded against if the one portal system is to be safe from attack. How long are we to suppose that the teachers would submit to having their students (and, incidentally, their work we might say) examined by members of professions other than their own? How long would it be before they would seek to drive the wedge under the one portal system just a trifle further and demand that, if the General Nursing Council does still organise the examinations, they (the teachers) shall be entitled to participate in them by having representatives among the examiners? Such a result would be a logical outcome of their teaching privileges, if only from the point of view of the protection of their methods of teaching; and, be it remembered, the Education Department has its representatives on the Council, who might readily support such policy. We consider that the nurses cannot too jealously guard the great privileges they hold under the Act, and that they should recognise, too, a certain *moral* responsibility in this connection, with its opportunities for studying *applied* anatomy and physiology both in its normal and its abnormal conditions.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)