

be under similar misapprehension we would just remind our readers that the Home was founded and is maintained entirely by members of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

During the year the Helena Benevolent Fund has carried on its useful work and has helped not only the older members but a number of the younger nurses also who have been in financial stress as a result of illness. We have received very warm thanks from those who have thus been supported through times of crises and difficulty.

In spite of the economic difficulties of the present time, the income of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund from subscriptions, during the year just ended, was rather more than in the previous year; but the amount received in donations was considerably lower. The half-yearly cheques for the forthcoming six months have just gone to the annuitants and the letters acknowledging these give evidence of the value of the work accomplished. One old lady, with unconscious humour and perhaps less unconscious pathos, tells us that her cheque was more than usually welcome owing to injuries she received "because she sat upon a shadow thinking it was a chair." There are many such whom these funds are helping now that their working lives are over and they are tottering through the last months and years of life's journey in frailty, sickness and poverty. From far away Syria we have just received a letter from a member who holds one of the Princess Christian annuities. It speaks of gratitude for the kindness she has received at the hands of her fellow members of the R.B.N.A., and of much that she has received also from doctors and other residents in the town where she lives. She enclosed with her letter a cheque for £2 ros. 8d. for the Fund, saying that some months ago, when she read the obituary notice of the late Miss Alice Cattell and later that announcing the decision to found the Alice Cattell Memorial Annuity, she at once decided that she would help. (Incidentally Miss Cecilia Liddiatt sees to it that this old member has a copy of the JOURNAL each month and we hear that the latter reads it from cover to cover.) She set to work to interest friends and was able to send us this very helpful sum, stating that, with their gifts, her friends sent thanks for the privilege she had given to them in asking them to help such a cause.

It is to be remembered that the cost of administering all these funds is reduced to a minimum; they involve an exceedingly large amount of organising, clerical and book-keeping work but they have no salaried officials and no expenses for rent, light, etc. In this way those who subscribe to them can feel that their generosity really reaches the people it is intended to benefit. As a result, over seventy nurses are now in receipt of annuities from the T.N.A.F., and it is to be noted that these annuities do not cease on the death of one recipient but pass on to others; thus the work we are accomplishing for the T.N.A.F. is of that kind which lives in the future and the results of it will continue long after we have all been gathered to our respective caves of Machpelah. We thank all those who have given so generously; we pass on to them too the thanks of those who have benefited from so much generosity.

CLUB FIXTURES.

On Saturday, February 6th, at 3.0 p.m. Dr. Browne-Carthew has promised to give us a lecture which should prove exceedingly interesting; he is one of the best known authorities on the subject of radium. The title of the lecture is "Some experiences of Radium," and Sir Alfred Rice-Oxley, M.D., C.B.E., has kindly promised to take the Chair; the lecture will commence at 3.0 p.m. On Thursday, February 11th, we propose having a whist drive in aid of the Settlement Fund at 8.0 p.m. and on Saturday, February 20th, at 5.0 p.m., Mr. Herbert Paterson, C.B.E.,

F.R.C.S., is to show his film "A Summer in Machrihanish." It will be quite cheering to get a glimpse of a Highland summer in the dark days of February; the film shows some of the loveliest parts of the West. On the 23rd we are arranging a tour of the National Gallery and we hope to be able to have with us a lady who has made a great study of the work and times of most of the old Masters. For particulars regarding this last, apply to the Secretary.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Annie Colley.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Mrs. Colley, better known perhaps as Sister Ellershaw. She was one of the pioneers of modern nursing in South Africa, and the story of her life, according to the *South African Nursing Record*, is one of "pluck—real hard, smiling courage that nothing could dismay."

Mrs. Colley was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Sunderland, and was afterwards Charge-Nurse under the Metropolitan Asylums Board. She took her midwifery training at Brighton, and in 1899 she went to Singapore under the Colonial Nursing Association, returning after four years to qualify in massage. While in Johannesburg, Mrs. Colley, then Miss Ellershaw, was struck with the unhygienic conditions under which the poor of that town were nursed. She acquired a Maternity Home, and from this there grew a series of institutions known as the Ellershaw Maternity Nursing Homes, whose pupils are now practising as midwives throughout South Africa. Miss Ellershaw took a keen interest in organisation. She was an enthusiastic Member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a Founder Member of the South African Trained Nurses' Association. From 1920 to 1923 she was President of the latter.

Rather less than ten years ago, Miss Ellershaw married Mr. Colley and they took a farm, but unfortunately this did not prove to be a paying proposition, and after a few years Mr. Colley died. Mrs. Colley cheerfully faced life and its difficulties alone once more, and the writer of the obituary notice in the *South African Nursing Record* says that although fate had dealt her blow after blow she still smiled and worked bravely throughout many difficult experiences in her nursing work. "She was superior to circumstance." Mrs. Colley died from pneumonia.

Miss Edith Please.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Miss Edith Please, a Member who has kept in very close touch with the Association throughout her professional life; she was an enthusiast about all things connected with nursing. She and her sister lost no time in having their names placed on the State Register and she was a Fellow of the British College of Nurses. Miss Please entered for training at St. George's Hospital in 1891 and was appointed Night Charge-Nurse at Hampstead Hospital five years later. For a time she did district nursing and afterwards became Matron of the Cottage Hospital, Kingsbridge. Until quite recently she was in residence at the Settlement Home, but shortly before her death she and her sister had moved into a flat. Our sympathy goes out to Miss Gertrude Please, S.R.N., also a Member of the Corporation, who, we hear, is overcome with sorrow and is at present in hospital. There were few gatherings of the Association at which we did not see the Misses Please, keen and interested as when they were in active practice. Just in the last issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING honourable mention was given to an article from the pen of the late Miss Please, showing that she took an intelligent interest in nursing development even in her years of well-earned retirement.

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ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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