

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

BIRTHDAY PARTY.

The Birthday Party and Sale of Work took place on 7th December and we spent a particularly happy afternoon. Until four the Members were busy "keeping shop" and very entertaining they appeared to find it. Any tight purse strings were promptly recognised as "a Waterloo" and great jubilation was expressed when a "Waterloo" was won (*i.e.*, the unloosing of these purse-strings). A beautiful cake, sent by Messrs. Hamilton and Chalmers, of Kensington High Street, was made the object of a guessing competition, and the victors were Miss Cattarns, Miss Holmes and Miss Theobald; we fear the division of the cake, by the Secretary, was scarcely so accurate as the estimates of weight made by the successful competitors. Miss Cutler with her beautiful home-made jams added no inconsiderable amount to the day's takings and as usual Miss Schuller, with her band of helpers, was one of the busiest in the rooms.

At four every one adjourned to the drawing-room for tea. Of the forty-five candles Mrs. Bedford Fenwick lit the first and then a number of those, who joined in the early years of the Association's existence, brought their tapers to a candle; the last to set a light to the cake was "the newest Member" in the room; thus we rounded off the years. The company joined hands in singing "Auld Lang Syne" round the flaming cake and after three cheers for the founder (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) the latter cut the first slice and, in a very short time, this immense erection of iced and decorated cake was no more, for the party was a large one this year. Yet, in spite of bad times, and the attacks of these pertinacious warriors in the rooms below, everyone went off saying that it had been one of the most enjoyable parties we have had. The Sale resulted in a birthday gift to the Association of just over £70.

CHRISTMAS.

The Christmas festivities at the Club were characterised by the usual gaiety and energy, although only about thirty people sat down to dinner in place of the forty-five Members who were present last year. Christmas dinner took place on Saturday and, therefore, we were able to enjoy a more or less quiet Christmas Day. A telegram of good wishes was received from H.R.H. the President and we also had Christmas greetings from H.R.H. the Princess Beatrice. Telegrams were also received from Mrs. Temple and Mrs. Wainwright wishing the Members a happy Christmas, and after these were read out, the Secretary read extracts from the letters of a number of sick and aged Members who had received Christmas cheques from Headquarters from the Helena Benevolent Fund.

Delightful gifts had been received from Members to add to the enjoyment of the Christmas dinner, including wine, sweets, crackers and other good things from Mrs. John

Temple, who well sustains, by her wonderful generosity to her colleagues, the position of fairy godmother to the Club at Queen's Gate! The lovely flowers arranged on the table were from Miss Beatrice Treasure and Miss Ethel Walker, Mrs. Harte sent a fine turkey, Mrs. Ryder Richardson a large box of cigarettes, and Mrs. Watkin Price chocolates.

All the usual toasts were honoured and the dinner party was a very merry one indeed. As usual, Miss Treasure had made herself responsible for decorating the Club, and there stood in the hall a Christmas tree, old-fashioned like the Christmas tree of long ago when this symbol had a less materialistic character than at the present day and was "a tree of life and light." Its shining fruits sparkled under the bright hall light and made it indeed a perfect vision of Christmas symbolism, a symbol, too, which seems to live in the memory of our Members throughout the whole year, for so often those who have spent Christmas here refer, in letters or otherwise, to this lovely Christmas symbol of the Tree of Life, green and sparkling, with its promise of new beginnings, ever arising because of the passing of the old, and of the spring time that will triumph over the darkness of the winter. The Lutherans saw into deep mysteries when they inaugurated the first Christmas tree, and half its message has been lost since it was brought into a more materialistic use, however much its gifts may tend to sow the seeds of a faculty for gratitude in the young.

LECTURE.

SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN.

On Thursday, November 17th, Major Rigg, O.B.E., F.S.A., gave an exceedingly interesting lecture on Sir Christopher Wren, of which, unfortunately, we are only able to give a very short résumé. There was a large attendance and, in introducing the lecturer, Mrs. Andrews referred to his wonderful knowledge of ancient architecture and all that he had achieved in regard to the preservation of the Wren Churches in London. She congratulated him on having been appointed a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. Major Rigg, in commencing his lecture, said that Sir Christopher Wren was born 300 years ago, and died 209 years ago in the dining-room of his house at Hampton Court. More than any other man he had developed the Italian and Renaissance architecture. From his childhood Wren had shown aptitude and great ingenuity in regard to the mathematical sciences, but not until he was thirty did he show a tendency towards the development of the art of architecture. Sir Christopher Wren's boyhood was spent chiefly in the neighbourhood of Windsor. He grew up an ardent Royalist and was educated by a private tutor and later at Westminster School under the famous Dr. Busby. At Oxford he was a Fellow of All Souls, and there met his life-long friend, Evelyn, the diarist. He then became Professor of Geometry at Gresham

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)