

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Corporation took place at 194, Queen's Gate on June 13th. Miss Beatrice Cutler, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., was in the Chair. The Report of the Executive Committee covered many activities but as these have been referred to, as they occurred, in our official organ we need not take up valuable space by recapitulation. The Report was seconded by Miss Holmes who said that it gave evidence of very varied and comprehensive activities to meet the taste of Members of different interests, and at the same time it showed evidence that the Association had been on the alert to oppose matters which were likely to be inimical to the best interests of the profession. She would like especially to congratulate Miss Macdonald upon the very valuable help for benevolent work which had arisen on the sale of her little book.

The Hon. Treasurer's Report was read and the Statement of Accounts showed that there had been an excess of income over expenditure of £147 0s. 5d. on the accounts of the General Fund, of £9 18s. 11d. on those of the Helena Benevolent Fund and of £27 1s. 3d. on those of the Settlement. In closing his Report the Hon. Treasurer thanked the Members for all their generous support which had enabled the Executive Committee to render a satisfactory Financial Report. This had not been achieved without great care in the direction of the administration of the Association's Finance. In seconding the Report Miss Kent congratulated the Association on having balanced its budget in exceedingly difficult times and said that the long statements of accounts gave evidence of much laborious work; the thanks of the Members were due to all those who had participated in this. The result of the ballot was announced and the following were elected Members of the Council:—Medical Men: Dr. Barton, Dr. Bennett, Dr. Cutler, Dr. Morley Fletcher, Mr. Lake, Dr. MacEwen, Dr. Murray, Dr. Parkes, Mr. Spencer, Dr. Turner; Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses: The Misses J. Balsillie, E. Brodie, A. M. Bushby, A. Hyde, M. M. Ingman, M. Little, E. L. Macaulay, L. Mackie, K. Smith and B. Wright; Sisters and Nurses: The Lady Hermione Blackwood, Mrs. Hamilton Gibson, Mrs. Stewart Murray, Mrs. Campbell Thomson, The Misses H. G. Ballard, G. Blacklock, C. A. Crozier, B. Kent, F. McCash, F. Macdonald.

At the close of the meeting Miss Lord moved a vote of thanks to the honorary Officers and the Executive Committee for all their kindness to the Association and for the time that they give so generously to its affairs which was carried unanimously.

LEGACY.

Under the will of the late Miss Pell Smith the Association is to receive the sum of £50. Miss Pell Smith was for many years a very loyal Member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and we always enjoyed her occasional visits to headquarters. We feel great appreciation of the kindly feeling towards the Association which led to her making this bequest.

LECTURE.

OLD JAPAN AND HER ART.

We spent a most delightful afternoon when Dr. Bennett gave us his lecture on "Old Japan and her Art." Dr. Owens, who is greatly interested in Japanese art, took the Chair.

Dr. Bennett said that many of the legends and beliefs of old Japan were becoming eradicated by the influences of the West and commercialism. The new Japan was practically only a little over sixty years old and the drastic changes which opened it up for modern development were made on the restoration of the Emperor Meiji. Treasures of art that surprised the world were disclosed, for hitherto there had been no intercourse between Japan and the Western world. In many of these specimens the legends and customs of old Japan had been preserved, the lovely workmanship won universal approval and gradually deeper and more æsthetic conceptions of its value arose as a result of intimate study. At first collectors made for the pretty and attractive pieces and relegated to the background plainer and less showy specimens which were actually of far greater historic and artistic value. As a result the Japanese arrived at the conclusion that the Westerners like the more elaborate pieces and so they commenced to manufacture those, with the result that, as the commercial side of their art grew, its really artistic side degenerated—that side wherein, apparently by a line or two, a most artistic and delicate piece of art could be produced. The chief objects of interest to collectors of Japanese art were articles of personal use in Japanese life, and probably the owners of them more readily discarded such as were of later date and of more showy design. The history of a nation is very often reflected in its art and nowhere more so than in Japan; therefore Dr. Bennett said that he would like to take just a glance back over Japanese history. He divided this into four eras: (a) The age of mythology, of which there was an oral tradition only. This told of the creation of Japan by the Gods Izanagi and Izanami for the foundation of the Empire under the first Emperor Jimmu Tenno in 660 B.C. whose descent mythology traces from the grandson of the Sun-Goddess Ama Teresa. Next came the second era—The Dark Ages, from 660 B.C. to the second or third century A.D. The next era the lecturer characterised as that of Ancient History, from the introduction of Chinese civilisation to the eighth century A.D. Then from the eighth century there followed the age of Medieval History to the year 1868, for, to all intents and purposes, Japan was medieval up to mid-Victorian times. Until then there were practically two powers in the government from the twelfth century A.D.—first the Emperor, who, through his divine descent from Jimmu Tenno, held a superlatively elevated position as practically a God and lived a life of monastic seclusion with his court; the second power in the government was the Shogun, who was chief military and political dictator. The country was ruled actually under a feudal

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