

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH.

The following letter has been forwarded, by direction of the Executive Committee, to the Minister of Health, in connection with proposals which have been raised to split the Preliminary Examination of the General Nursing Council.

The Right Hon. The Minister of Health,
The Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

DEAR SIR,—I am instructed to communicate with you in reference to certain proposals which, it is understood, are now receiving the consideration of the General Nursing Council in connection with the preliminary examination held by that body and the suggested division of that examination into two parts. It is indicated that such division of the examination would involve the possibility of anatomy and physiology being taught outside the authority and curricula of the Council and the Nursing Schools. My Executive Committee consider that any such step would introduce grave dangers to the administrative independence of the Council in relation to its educational functions in the future. The Committee suggest that, if the Council would devote consideration to the formulation of a prescribed scheme of training, as provided for in the Act, thereby its educational prerogatives would be safeguarded, and risks of teaching, in anatomy and physiology, being handed over to other than members of the medical and nursing professions would be avoided. Therefore the Committee would urge that, before dealing with proposals for amending the present system, the Council should use its powers under the Act and draft a prescribed scheme of training. Only on the foundation, provided by such a scheme, do we believe that consideration of any plan for altering the present scheme of examination can justifiably be undertaken.

I am,

Yours very truly,

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary.

18th September, 1933.

FIXTURES.

Thursday, October 19th, 2.30 p.m.—The "Ramblers" go over Westminster Abbey.

Saturday, October 28th, 4-6 p.m.—Miss Macdonald "At Home" to Members and friends.

Saturday, November 4th, 3.0 p.m.—Lecture by Major Rigg, F.S.A., on "The Ancient City of Westminster."

Saturday, November 11th, 3.30 p.m.—Lecture by Dr. King Brown, M.D., D.P.H.

GIFTS TO THE CLUB.

H.R.H. The Princess Arthur of Connaught, grouse and venison; Miss Bell, Miss Ewing, Miss M. Johnson, Miss B. Treasure, flowers; Mrs. Wells, fruit.

THE CENTENARY OF THE DEACONESSES' MOTHERHOUSE AND TRAINING HOME.

IN KAISERSWERTH ON THE RHINE.

Founded in 1833.

We have received the following very interesting and historical article from Deaconess Brooke at Kaiserswerth. The great Institution of Kaiserswerth was, on September 17th, 1833, unostentatiously inaugurated by Frau Friederike Fliedner in the parsonage Garden House, where she sheltered the discharged prisoner Mina; Frau Fliedner was thus actually the Foundress and the first Member of the great Protestant Diaconate of the nineteenth century:—

On the 17th of September the Deaconesses' Motherhouse and Training Home at Kaiserswerth on the Rhine celebrated the Centenary of its foundation by Pastor Theodor Fliedner.

On this day a hundred years ago, a young man, his heart aglow with the passion for succouring the helpless, may have seen, as in a vision, his cherished dream, an institution for the training of nurses and other social workers, come true. Standing alone, a prophet in the desert, his spellbound eyes may have beheld a multitude responding to his call to the service of their suffering fellowmen.

That young man was Pastor Theodor Fliedner, Protestant Pastor of the Parish of Kaiserswerth on the Rhine, an insignificant little town between the large cities of Düsseldorf and Duisburg and not far from Cologne. Pastor Fliedner's parishioners were for the most part workers in the velvet factory of the town. The factory became bankrupt—the poor workmen were thrown out of employment and plunged into poverty. The resources of the little parish, always more or less straitened, were now insufficient to cope with the consequent distress. Pastor Fliedner, to save his beloved parish from extinction, started on a tour to collect funds in Germany, also visiting Holland and England for the purpose.

In Holland, he found among the Mennonites women who voluntarily dedicated their lives to nursing the sick and caring for the poor and ignorant of their communities.

In England he was introduced by the Chevalier de Bunsen Ambassador to the King of Prussia. Among the very first names heading his subscription list was that of the young Princess Victoria, later Queen of England. He became acquainted with many notable men and women and none impressed him more strongly than Wilberforce, that great soul who dedicated his life to the Liberation of the Negro slaves, and Elizabeth Fry, the "Angel of the Prisons." These were to Fliedner the most impressive and inspiring. In their hearts burned the same flame as in his own, the love of their suffering fellowmen. He had himself already founded in his own country the first "Society for the aid of prisoners" and hence was greatly interested in the work and sympathetic assistance of Elizabeth Fry for the improvement of prisons and the amelioration of the neglected occupants. Fliedner visited many charitable institutions and the hospitals. The latter were handsome constructions erected at great cost

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