

**RAMBLE.**

"The moment I entered Westminster Abbey I felt a kind of awe pervade my mind which I cannot describe; the very silence seemed sacred."—EDMUND BURKE.

As we stated in the last issue of the Supplement, Major Rigg is to give a lecture on "The Ancient City of Westminster" on Saturday, November 4th. In connection with this the Ramblers Club is making expeditions to places of interest in "the Ancient City." Quite properly, these commenced with a visit to the Abbey, and a number of Members gathered together for this on October 19th last. First we attended the afternoon service and then went over this greatest of our religious houses; we listened, entranced, to the many references from our guide, as we passed from one chapel to another, which testified to the part that the Abbey, and those memorialised therein, have played in the making of "our island story." We enjoyed the loveliness of the architecture and the chapels, cloisters and other buildings of monastic origin; it is not possible here to refer to all the different works of art and historical treasures and the stories we listened to in connection with each. Of especial interest, however, was the exquisite effigy of that "Queen of good memory," Eleanor, wife of Edward I, who followed her husband through the perils of the Crusades and earned for herself a place among the Historic Royal Nurses. The effigy is the work of an Englishman, and the beautiful iron work which surrounds one side is among the finest existing, and it also was the work of an Englishman. Here also we saw the tomb of Philippa of Hainault, the Royal Foundress of District Nursing and of Queens College at Oxford; this is by a Flemish artist. In those days artists made every effort to keep their work as near to an exact likeness of the person portrayed as possible, and it is a little regrettable that he has so depicted the handsome Queen Philippa as then, shortly before her death, she was suffering from the oedema arising from disease. Nevertheless, the work must have been one of very great magnificence indeed before the vandalism of a later age led to the destruction of many parts of it. We finished our ramble with a visit to the Chapter-house—once the House of Commons—and enjoyed the luxury of gazing on its fine architecture, the floor of beautiful old tiles, the frescoes with their rich colourings, the windows and the collection of ancient deeds. But it is impossible to realise the glories of Westminster in a single visit; too many beautiful things almost produce satiety, and we promised ourselves that, at some future date, we would come to study, more particularly, certain parts of the Abbey and learn in greater detail of the historical facts and characters connected with them; the ramble finished up with the usual happy gathering round a tea table with which we have a way of closing these expeditions.

**BIRTHDAY PARTY.**

We are holding our "Birthday Party," as has been our custom for many years, on Thursday, December 7th, from 4 to 6 p.m. We extend an invitation to all our Members and hope that many may be able to attend.

**SALE OF WORK.**

We have arranged to hold the Annual Sale of Work for the House Beautiful Fund on the "Birthday of the Association" (December 7th), as we did last year. We shall be very glad to receive birthday gifts in order to make the Sale a success; the results of it are used towards adding to the beauty of the Association's headquarters, principally in the matter of re-decorations. We are very glad of the help which the Members give to their Association in this way. It has not an income from invested funds upon which to rely and this annual effort to help its finances is of great

value in these days of taxation, heavy overhead expenses and the continual expenditure for repairs which property involves. The Sale will commence at 2.0 p.m.

**INVITATION.**

Miss Cutler, Miss Graham and Miss Macdonald are again arranging a dance for Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses and for Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association. It will take place early in the New Year. This notice is issued as an invitation. Will those who wish for further information please apply to the Secretary, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7? The hostesses regret that they must again limit their invitation to those who dance, and hope that many of them may find it possible to be present.

**OBITUARY.**

We have to report with regret the death of Miss Rothwell who always took a sincere interest in the Association.

**HELENA BENEVOLENT FUND.**

It has been our custom for several years to send out a large number of grants, of from one to three pounds, at Christmas-time to some of our less fortunate Members, in order to ensure that they shall have as comfortable and happy a Christmas as possible. This means a considerable tax on the resources of the benevolent fund which is making grants every month to Members who require help. In order to meet the effort to help them at Christmas we have made up a calendar to be sold for this purpose. It is composed of quotations from writers of the past and the present and embodies many great thoughts and passages suggestive of beautiful things in life and the world around us. On the front of each calendar is a fine woodcut of Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's from the River, or the Pump Court, Lincoln's Inn. These calendars will make very acceptable gifts and are to be sold at one shilling and sixpence each, a very moderate price for a beautiful anthology, in compiling which a very great deal of labour has been involved. We shall be very grateful to Members who will think of our effort to help others when they are arranging their Christmas gifts. It means so much to some of our aged Members to feel, as they express it, that they "are laid on the shelf but not forgotten by their Association." Perhaps some Members would like to order a single copy first in order to see what the calendar is like and others can be sent for afterwards. Applications for copies should be sent to the Secretary, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

**CLUB FIXTURES.**

The following are the social fixtures for the next few weeks and we shall be glad if Members and others who wish to attend will kindly make a note of the dates:—

*Saturday, November 11th, 3.30 p.m.*—Lecture "Health and the Seasons," by Dr. King Brown, M.D., D.P.H.

*Tuesday, November 14th, 3 p.m.*—Lecture "Customs and Traditions of the Highlands," by Major Norman McLeod.

*Thursday, November 30th, 8 p.m.*—Whist Drive; tickets, 2s.

*Thursday, December 7th.*—Birthday Party and Sale of Work, 2-6 p.m.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

194, Queen's Gate,  
London, S.W.7.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)