

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

THE COUNCIL "AT HOME."

The Council of the Association were "At Home" to the Members on 17th May. The gathering was smaller than is usually the case on these occasions, but at least it provided a pleasant reunion for those Members who were able to attend.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Corporation will be held at 194, Queen's Gate, on Tuesday, June 19th, at 3.30 p.m. Tea will be served after the business part of the meeting is over.

RAMBLE TO ARUNDEL.

"It is a revered thing to see an ancient castle not in decay."—BACON.

The ramble to Arundel on May 24th was indeed one rich in variety and over roads that lay between hedges and woods rich with blossoming hawthorn, chestnut trees and the like; nothing could be more beautiful than some of the woods bordering the policies of Arundel for miles before our arrival there, where the earth was like a kaleidoscope of glancing lights from the play of the sunlight through the foliage above. Within an hour's distance of our destination we stopped for a roadside picnic with the scent of the hawthorn on the air and the birds singing all around; it seemed scarcely conceivable that London was hardly two hours behind us.

His Grace the Duke of Norfolk had most kindly given his permission that the nurses should go over the Castle of Arundel and we looked forward with glad anticipation to adding this to memories of Hatfield, Knebworth and other such places. The story of Arundel has mysteries which have led to many an argument among archaeologists. Some talk of a Roman fortress that once stood there, others of, probably, some old Saxon Castle, while some would remind us not to disregard those obscure gentlemen the Ancient Britons when we seek to reconstruct the history of Arundel; their canoes have been found not so far from the boundaries of the Castle.

As we crossed the drawbridge we touched once more some connections with nursing history. There was pointed out to us here the window from which the Empress Matilda, daughter of Henry I, and the Lady Matilda of Scotland, held converse with Stephen, then King of England. He had married the cousin of the Empress Matilda—Matilda of Boulogne—who was the first founder of the Royal Hospital of St. Katherine. The result of the conference between the handsome Stephen on his charger and the lady at the lattice was that chivalry triumphed over politics and the Empress was allowed to pass unharmed to join her friends, and Stephen's opponents, in another part of the country. Later, as we passed round the castle, we were conducted into the room which is supposed to have been occupied by the Empress while she was the guest of her stepmother Adeliza, widow of Henry I whose wife she had become sometime after the death of his first wife, Matilda the Good.

Now Adeliza, surnamed the Fair Maid of Brabant, has some claim to be placed in the category of Royal Nurses because she founded at least two hospitals, one at St. Giles near Wilton and another at Fuggleston; no doubt these were establishments of a more or less conventual nature but they are definitely referred to by historians as hospitals. Adeliza is an interesting character for she may be regarded as the founder of the house of Arundel; on her marriage to Henry she received Arundel and its wide dependencies as part of her dowry. After the King's death she became the wife of one of the most chivalrous noblemen in England, William de Albini of whom legend tells that once, when attacked by a lion, he hastily wrapped his cloak around his arm and, thus protected, thrust his hand into the animal's mouth and tore out its tongue; the quaint chronicler of this doughty deed remarks that William was considered to have treated the lion leniently as he could have thrust his exceptionally long arm still further and turned his enemy outside in! It was through the beautiful and virtuous Maid of Brabant that the family of Albini inherited Arundel; true it reverted to the crown again on her death but when Henry II, son of the Empress, ascended the throne he made a gift of the Earldom and castle of Arundel to her husband "William of the Strong Arm" as he was called. Such is the ancestry of His Grace of Norfolk, of many famous courtiers, of one great poet of his time, and of two luckless royal ladies—Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard.

Never, we agreed, had we ever seen quite such a treasure-house of lovely and ancient things as here at Arundel, things obviously revered and cared for as such things should be; perhaps it is instinctive in the blood of the Howards so to do for we were shown, among many other paintings, the portrait of Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel, who was the first collector of antiquities in Great Britain. It is not possible here to tell of the exquisite furniture from many ages, much of it 16th century; under a window stood a chest which had belonged to Katherine Howard which may, or may not, have been that which she used for the fateful journey to London which led to the throne and thence to the scaffold. We saw a wealth of marvellous tapestries, heraldry, beautiful architecture, fine iron work, rich porcelain and statuary and felt that the time was all too short in which to enjoy them. On the first window of the Baron's Hall we found portrayals of Arundel's connection with King Alfred; on it too were depicted the siege by Henry I and the visit of Rufus, one time suitor for the hand of Matilda the Good, if legend is to be credited. On the second window is depicted the arrival of King Stephen, with his forces, when he yielded to the Empress and allowed her to pass unmolested from the castle. On the same window is shown Adeliza receiving her dowry and her meeting with the Empress Matilda at Arundel; the remaining eight windows all deal with events connected with the history of the castle.

Pictures, painted by many of the greatest artists in history, were fascinating indeed, portraiture of the representatives down the ages of an ancient house of whom every second

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