

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association was held on Tuesday, June 19th. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was in the Chair. The Report of the Executive Committee enumerated the various activities carried on throughout the year; reference to most of these has already been made as they occurred and so it is unnecessary to recapitulate reports. The position which the Executive Committee and the Council had adopted in relation to the suggested division of the Preliminary Examination and the various arguments in opposition to such division were stated; it was evident that those present emphatically endorsed the view of the Committee that that division of the Examination and its results would prove prejudicial to the interests of the nurses and to free and professional development in the future. Several members congratulated the Committee warmly upon the report saying that it was difficult to realise the great amount of work which lay behind the business summarised in the various paragraphs. The Chairman in reviewing the situation said (in reference to the proposition for a divided Examination) that we had only just escaped the very serious position of affairs which would have arisen if some quite philanthropic people, bent on supporting the policy of *The Lancet*, had succeeded in overturning the professional vote in the Council. The lesson from the controversy was that the nurses must be very much on the alert to protect their professional interests and privileges. In speaking of the Resolution passed at a Sectional Meeting of the International Council of Nurses in favour of Compulsory State Registration of Nurses, Mrs. Fenwick said that she was glad that this Resolution had been put forward and passed so unanimously. What we must aim at now is a system of compulsory Registration. The Registration Acts had brought educational progress, but there would never be complete protection from unqualified competition until Registration became compulsory. At the present time any lay person could employ semi-trained and unqualified women and exploit them in competition with the Registered Nurses. Even at the present time a registry for domestic servants was advertising "sick nurses" for attendance on the sick.

The Financial Statements and Report whilst indicating that the year had been one which had given rise to some anxiety in regard to finance, yet showed that there had been an excess of income over expenditure of £9 7s. 4d. on the accounts of the General Fund, of £31 12s. 8d. on those of the Settlement Fund, and of £8 9s. 6d. on those of the Helena Benevolent Fund. Miss Kent and others spoke on the Report, the former remarking that she felt a great admiration for figures so well adjusted on both sides of the Statements, the more so as she herself disliked figures. She felt she was expressing the views of those present when she said that she regarded the statements

presented as most satisfactory especially at a time when financial considerations gave rise to general difficulty. The Chairman agreed that the Report should give satisfaction. In putting the motion for its adoption she said that it was certainly most satisfactory, that it gave evidence of much generosity on the part of the Members and of much care too in the administration of the Association's finance. In these days it was a great matter to be able to show a balance on the right side, true this was not a large one, but it maintained a great principle in dealing with finance.

The result of the ballot was declared, and the following were elected Members of the Council to fill vacancies arising under Bye-law XVII:—Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses: Miss Breay, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Miss M. Huxley, M.A., S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Miss F. Campbell, S.R.N., R.F.N., F.B.C.N., Miss Richardson, S.R.N., R.M.N., Miss H. Lamb, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Miss W. Solomon, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Miss A. F. Bedwell, R.R.C., Miss M. Drakard, S.R.N., R.F.N., F.B.C.N., Miss G. Lord, Miss F. Kirkby, S.R.N. Sisters and Nurses: Miss B. Treasure, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Miss C. Liddiatt, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Miss E. Swaby Smith, S.R.N., M.B.C.N., Miss E. Taylor, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Miss J. Downie, S.R.N., Mrs. Berens Dowdeswell, M.A., S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Miss D. M. Preston, S.R.N., Miss S. Sellers, S.R.N., Miss C. M. Eve, J.P., Mrs. Bearcroft. Medical Men:—The Right Hon. The Lord Horder of Ashford, K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., Sir Stanley Hewitt, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., M.D., Sir Alfred Rice-Oxley, C.B.E., M.D., Eric Pritchard, Esq., M.D., Leslie Paton, Esq., F.R.C.S., D. MacIntyre, Esq., M.D., D.P.H., W. E. M. Armstrong, Esq., M.D., R. H. Jocelyn Swan, Esq., F.R.C.S., Mrs. J. Campbell Maxwell, M.B., Ch.B., A. E. Woodall, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.

Sir Alfred Rice-Oxley said that he would like to be permitted to congratulate Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on the recognition (mentioned in the report) which she had received from the late King of the Belgians as founder of the International Council of Nurses, and President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. He knew of no "Honour" so well earned or so richly deserved. He had known Mrs. Fenwick for many years now (from the time when he, as a young man, was working in the London Hospital in fact) and he had no hesitation in saying that he knew no one who had done such great service to the cause of nursing or kept the interests of the nurses so unfailingly in the forefront of a lifetime's work for the advancement of the profession.

Mrs. Fenwick thanked Sir Alfred Rice-Oxley. Reformers she said, were not used to recognition, and in Great Britain they were specially unpopular. No one had been more surprised than herself when she was informed of the intention of the late King Albert of the Belgians to bestow upon her the ruban de chevalier d'Ordre de Leopold I. She was proud to possess an Order conferred by one of the most noble of Kings, and it pleased her the more because she felt that behind its bestowal lay the appreciation of Queen Elisabeth, one of the most brilliant women of her age. At their Congress in Brussels, Her Majesty at once recog-

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