

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

ELECTION OF THE COUNCIL.

Nominations for the elections to fill vacancies arising under Bye-law xvii should be received at the office not later than 14th inst. We ask all Members, before filling in the ballot papers, to read very carefully the directions printed thereon as, annually, a very considerable number of those papers have to be set aside as invalid owing to the fact that the regulations and directions have not been complied with; particularly we would draw attention to the fact that it is useless to give several votes to one person for this simply leads the scrutineers to add another to their list of "spoiled papers."

LORD DAWSON'S BILL ON CONTRACEPTIVES.

The following letter has been sent from the Executive Committee to Lord Dawson in reference to the above Bill:—

Royal British Nurses' Association,
194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

March 17th, 1934.

MY LORD,

The Executive Committee of this Association had under consideration yesterday the Bill on contraceptives which Your Lordship has just introduced into the House of Lords. While my Committee fully realise the necessity for some such measure and desire to express their thanks to you for its introduction, they take strong exception to the provision which the Bill contains to enable Registered Nurses and Certified Midwives to sell contraceptives. Such provision is, we consider, prejudicial alike to the interests of the Public and the Nursing and Midwifery Services. It lays on those services a responsibility which we regard as one which should belong to the Medical Profession entirely. Members of that Profession alone, we consider, are possessed of a knowledge to justify authority for sanctioning the use of contraceptives.

I am,

My Lord,

Your obedient servant,

ISABEL MACDONALD

Secretary.

Lord Dawson of Penn,
32, Wimpole Street, W.1.

LECTURE.

A JOURNEY THROUGH SCOTLAND.

On Thursday, March 15th, Miss Macdonald gave a lecture on Scotland. A journey into the Highlands must, almost of necessity, commence from Glasgow, and the first scene put on the screen was Glasgow Cathedral, one of the many religious foundations of the reign of David I, son of Queen Margaret of Scotland, the first of the Royal British Nurses. It is probable that a Church stood on the site of the Cathedral as early as 539. Glasgow Cathedral was the only one in Scotland to escape the

ravages of the Reformation, and it is famed for its beautiful glass. We have before now referred to it in these pages, on its connections with Maister Peter Low, the first of the pioneers for the Registration of Medical Practitioners, and the founder of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow; he lived in the time of James I. Other scenes in the City of Glasgow were put on the screen, then a view of Oban and one of Fingal's Cave, that most magnificent piece of Nature's architecture described by Sir Robert Peel as "A Temple not made with hands." Then came views of Iona, interesting principally because of the landing of Columba there in 593, because of its ancient Cathedral and the ruins of an ancient nunnery. This last is worthy of note for nurses as there the nuns cultivated a fine herb garden and were famed for their knowledge of simples, a knowledge now, alas, completely lost. Here, in the sixteenth century, there ruled a Prioress of Royal birth—the Princess Anna—who is to be regarded as having claims to a place among the Royal Nurses. Next, by way of Ballachulish, the lecturer took her audience to Glencoe—the Glen of Weeping as it is called—where the scenery is perhaps more wild, awe-inspiring and sublime than any in Scotland, and yet this was the scene of one of the most brutal massacres on record. A long series of views of the Highlands followed, particularly many beautiful scenes in Perthshire and many connected with the '45 when so many of "the lads with their bonnets and white cockades" were "leaving their mountains to follow Prince Charlie." They made many of those scenes famous in song and story; perhaps no war has ever left such a rich harvest of poetry and music as that inherited from the otherwise ill-fated rebellion of the '45.

Views of the south country gave many interesting links with Scott, Burns, Fergusson, Hogg and other great personalities in Scottish literature; then there followed a long series of pictures of the ancient castles and strongholds of Scotland, commencing with Scone Palace, famous for its wealth of old furniture and a bedspread worked by Mary Queen of Scots while she was held a prisoner in Loch Leven Castle. From Scone Palace the Stone of Destiny was taken by Edward I. It was believed to be the stone on which Jacob rested his head, on it the Scottish Kings were crowned for centuries and, since Edward carried it to England, it has been used for the throning of all the English Kings, and still forms part of the Coronation Chair. Many famous Castles, or their ruins, were shown, among them Ravenscraig and several others immortalised by Sir Walter Scott, Loch Leven Castle, the prison of Mary Queen of the Scots, Falkland Palace, where James V died just after hearing of the birth of Mary and, referring to the Scottish crown, made the prophetic utterance: "It cam' wi' a lass an' it'll gang wi' a lass"; lastly there was Duntulm Castle, the very ancient seat of the Macdonalds, Lords of the Isles, and near it the grave of Flora Macdonald. Lastly followed pictures of two old castles, one in Orkney and one in Shetland, presenting evidence

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