

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Association took place on Saturday, June 29th, at 3.0 p.m. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was in the Chair and after the Notice convening the Meeting had been read and the Minutes of the previous Meeting read and confirmed, the Report of the Executive Committee was placed before the Meeting. This dealt with many activities which have already been reported in our official organ and therefore we need not recapitulate now.

In moving that the Report be received Miss Treasure said she considered that it gave an admirable statement of the work done by the Committee during the year, a great deal of labour lay behind events very shortly summarised in the Report and especially she would bring to the notice of the Members present the vigilance which had characterised the work of their Executive Committee in relation to matters affecting the nursing profession as a whole.

Mrs. Hamilton Gibson said that she considered that much gratitude was due to the British College of Nurses and the Association for the way in which they worked together to protect privileges which had been won. Mrs. Watkins Price, Miss Swaby Smith and others spoke and, in commenting on the Report, the Chairman said that she quite agreed with what other speakers had said of the Report. She alluded to various sections of this and, in connection with political activities, said that vigilance would *always* be wanted. The nurses need not imagine that, because certain aspirations had triumphed and privileges had been thereby obtained for the profession, all need for effort was over. Privileges certainly had been won by those who created and laboured in the past but if these privileges were to be safeguarded for the future vigilance certainly would be called for and perhaps strife.

In speaking on the political aspects of the Report Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that it was a matter for considerable congratulation that Sir Kingsley Wood, who had been so great a success as Postmaster-General (though he had not restored the penny post!) had now been appointed Minister of Health. He was likely to have sympathy with the nurses for in conjunction with the late Sir Robert Morant, First Secretary of the Ministry of Health, he had watched over the Nurses' Registration Bill in 1919 during the Committee Stage in the House of Commons, and it had gone through this with all its more important provisions protected. Mrs. Fenwick next referred to the fact that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales had, by a Resolution, annulled the formerly existing arrangement that those qualifying for the Preliminary State Examinations should be taught physiology and anatomy by Registered Medical Practitioners and fully qualified Nurses. She regarded the Resolution as a retrograde step, from more aspects than one, and nurses would be well advised to see that it did not prove the thin end of the wedge for handing over educational powers and privileges to people other than those of the medical and nursing professions—professions closely related to each other.

After a further discussion the adoption of the Report was moved and this was seconded and carried.

The various Statements of Accounts before the Meeting came under discussion when the Report of the Hon. Treasurer was read. The General Fund showed an excess of income over expenditure of £2 7s. 6d. On the Co-operation account there was a deficit of £8 12s. 0d., while the Helena Benevolent Fund and the Settlement Fund had, respectively, an excess of income over expenditure of £54 11s. 8d. and £9 3s. 3d. The repairs and renewals required during the year under review had claimed a heavy expenditure from the General Fund. It was reported that the surplus in the Helena Benevolent Fund was partially due to there having been fewer applications for help, but more largely to certain special collections and other sums which had fallen to the Fund. The Settlement Fund had received two small legacies during the year and advantage had been taken of these to carry out certain improvements on the property. At the close of his Report the Hon. Treasurer expressed thanks for all the generous support extended to the Association by its Members. In seconding it Miss Farrant said that it was exceedingly satisfactory to find that there was again a balance on the right side on the General Fund. She was rather inclined to congratulate the Members that it was a small one for the accounts, as she had studied them, indicated that the balance was small because a great deal was being done and the various items in the long statement of accounts gave evidence that the income of the Association was directed towards the benefit of its Members while at the same time the principle of keeping within its income had been maintained. Several others spoke in favour of the Treasurer's Report and in closing the discussion the Chairman said that it gave her great satisfaction to see such a report before the Meeting. Money was most important to successful organisation; it was not good to be grasping but without sound finance an Association must of necessity go on a downward grade. She agreed with the Treasurer that the Members were generous to their Association and exceedingly generous indeed in the matter of helping those of their fellow Members who were in ill health or suffering from the difficulties arising in old age.

After the adoption of the Report Mrs. Fenwick expressed the regret with which the Executive Committee had heard of the serious illness of Dr. Stewart. Throughout his Treasurership he had been most kind and most sympathetic towards all the nurses' efforts for professional progress. It was moved by Miss Farrant seconded by Miss Giffen, and carried, that an expression of sympathy be sent from the General Meeting to Dr. Kenneth Stewart and that H.R.H. the President be asked to sign this.

The result of the ballot was then declared and the following were elected to fill vacancies on the General Council arising under Bye-law XVII:—Medical Men: Dr. Beddard, Dr. Cran, Dr. Duff-Miller, Dr. Hall Smith, Dr. King Brown, Dr. Lambert, Dr. Liston, Dr. Maxwell Simpson, Dr. Nicholson, Dr. Rice-Oxley; Matrons and

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