

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

TRAINED NURSES' ANNUITY FUND BENEVOLENCE.

At its last meeting the Council of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund were able, owing to various circumstances, to grant seven annuities to sick and aged nurses whose names were on our waiting list. With the cheques to cover these we sent a cake or a box of shortbread from a small sum still remaining over from the sale of Christmas calendars so that the recipients of the cheques might, in a way, celebrate the gift of their annuities. We have received letters expressive of the deepest gratitude for the help given and we just wish that all those who so generously subscribe to the fund might read them and realise how greatly their generosity has helped to lift many "a burden of care."

LECTURE.

OCCUPATIONAL ARTISTIC THERAPY.

On Saturday, 2nd February, Miss Lilian Scott gave us a very fascinating lecture on Occupational Artistic Therapy with demonstrations. She said that this branch of work really embraced a very wide field; it was not merely recognised as one of the most important departments of curative treatment in the case of mental disease but it proves to be of the utmost value in so called borderland cases, during convalescence from a long illness, physical or mental. It is a great help to those who are struggling to recover from great trials and shocks in life and it is being used with splendid results in the case of the unemployed; it helps to prevent these last from falling into conditions of moral and mental degeneracy through having nothing to do.

Particularly in America and in Canada, Occupational Therapy has been widely developed, so much so that the chief occupational officer, in most hospitals, is regarded as being as important as the doctor and in many cases she is in receipt of a salary equal to that of the junior medical officer in the same institution as that in which she is employed; quite a usual salary is three thousand dollars or about £600 in English money. But a very high standard of artistic training is required of such a teacher and she must be capable too of giving out what she has acquired in this direction. The work is very systematic and in America very little needlework is done in the occupation departments of the hospitals; something that allows for greater breadth and claiming less close concentration is considered to involve less strain upon the nerves.

Often, at first, occupational therapeutic treatment is regarded rather coldly both by the patients and those in authority but soon the former begin to love it; you may commence by finding them indifferent and sitting disconsolately in beautiful rooms but before long you realise that you have opened up a way to their feelings and thought by way of their fingers; it is always very import-

ant of course to see that the particular work taught is pleasing and gives satisfaction to the patient. If he or she does not like some particular craft try him with another; or he may do bad work in one particular branch while he makes really beautiful things in another. Patience is required and observation if these crafts are to be taught successfully and it is a good plan to commence with basket making; it is useful, often charming and is not tiring; it is always important to keep the productions of an occupational therapy department as beautiful as possible.

Miss Scott showed a very large variety of different types of work—beautiful things produced at the cost of few pence often. The variety of work shown was particularly admired and especially many different types of weaving.

Our classes for Arts and Crafts are still going on each Monday afternoon and we are always very pleased when people come in to see the work in progress.

ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC, THE FIRST SISTER OF CHARITY.

The following is a lecture by Miss Macdonald given at our Headquarters on February 28th:—

Mlle. le Gras is still, perhaps, the name by which the great co-foundress of the Sisters of Charity is best known to nurses. She was the daughter of Louis de Marillac, Lord of the Manor of Ferrières and a Councillor to Parliament. Her uncles were Chancellor Michel de Marillac and Marshall de Marillac, men who steered their respective paths in national life with high honour and when they could no longer retain their great positions without sacrifice of conscience, died as honourably and as heroically as they had lived.

Louise de Marillac was born on the 12th of August, 1591, and the circumstances of her birth were certainly fortunate, in view of the great work which lay before her, for she received an education far in advance of that of most girls of her time, or even of those of our own day. She studied first at the famous monastery of Poissy under the supervision of the Dominican Sisters; religion, theology, philosophy and literature, these were among her subjects, and, whether at Poissy or elsewhere, she must have studied art, for experts have told us that her paintings show evidence of very superior craftsmanship. We know, too, that she painted a large picture of Christ for the Mother-house, and that this had, connected with it, a symbolism unusual at that time, so that we may gather that imagination played into the art of St. Louise de Marillac as well as into her administrative achievements. But her father was a man of great good sense. His daughter was not to be educated in one-sided intellectualism; she must learn things, too, that had a practical, everyday value, and so in time he brought her from Poissy and placed her under a school-mistress who taught her housewifery as well as other subjects. Yet her former studies were not entirely discontinued, for we learn that she was still made to continue

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)