

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SYMPATHY.

Secretary of State, Home Department.  
23rd December, 1935.

MADAM,—I have had the honour to lay before The King the loyal and dutiful message of the Royal British Nurses' Association on the occasion of the death of Her Royal Highness The Princess Victoria.

I am commanded to convey The King's thanks for this expression of sympathy in the grievous loss which His Majesty has sustained.

I am, Madam,  
Your obedient Servant,  
JOHN SIMON.

## CHRISTMAS AT HEADQUARTERS.

Although we follow each year all the same old traditional customs Christmas at the Club seems to assume a character completely its own, possibly because so many different individualities are represented there from year to year. For Christmas of 1934 we had a very large gathering but this year only 33 people sat down to enjoy our Christmas fare and the special feature this year was the large proportion of young Members in their pretty decorative frocks; several nurses had to thank their patients for being able to join us, and other Members in public health and similar posts had come up to spend Christmas in "their London Home."

The day began with attendance at Church for most, and by the middle of the morning the chief interest had centred in the hall, where, from time to time, the postmen arrived to turn out their sacks of good will. A light lunch was served early and at four our Christmas party gathered in the drawing room to partake of tea, and cook's beautiful Christmas cake was cut. Later in the day, after "sherry cocktails" in the drawing room, we descended to the hall to gather round the most beautiful thing in all our Christmas time—Miss Treasure's lovely "tree of light and life" which she so very generously provides and decorates each year for the pleasure of her colleagues, and to give them pleasant memories of their Headquarters for the New Year. Everyone agreed that this year's was the most beautiful tree we had ever had and that is saying a great deal for Miss Treasure is an adept in decorating a Christmas tree. It looked so light and delicate with a dainty fairy at the top, slender trails of silver among the branches and the perfectly fascinating tiny lights (fed from our electricity) which reflected back the light from larger glowing coloured balls of green and yellow that circled up round the trunk. Everyone agreed that it would be pure vandalism to destroy the effect by tying on parcels, so delicate was it and indeed from one side of the hall you might mistake it for two because of its vivid reflection in the glass of the doors. At the close of the evening a Member rang up Miss Treasure saying that she was "urgently required" on the telephone and when, by this piece of "diplomacy" they had enticed her to the

receiver, it was to hear "Jolly good fellow" sung by her colleagues, followed by cheers.

The dinner tables, decorated by Miss Hutton, looked very bright and Christmas-like with beautiful yellow flowers, red crackers, scarlet holly and sweets of many hues. When the lights were lowered the Christmas pudding, held high by the cook, was brought in surrounded in purple flame, and after a very gay and cheerful dinner we went to the drawing rooms again where dancing became the popular form of amusement; it is such a pretty sight to see ladies dancing together and those who did not dance mostly preferred looking on to joining a card table.

Good wishes were received from H.R.H. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder, and Vice Chairman, and Mrs. Temple, and we are indebted to many kind and generous friends for helping to add to the Christmas cheer; indeed they made us feel exceedingly affluent in our mansion at Queen's Gate! Mrs. Temple, who so well maintains her position of Fairy Godmother, sent us fine wine, sherry and liqueurs, crackers, fruit, sweets, crystallised fruits, and all the flowers for the dining tables. From Miss Huxley, M.A., and Mrs. Hutton we had two splendid turkeys and we received a lovely box of chocolates from Miss Devlin and Miss Cullinan and another from Miss Jean Phillips. Miss Orwin sent us a generous supply of evergreen, Miss Armstrong crystallised fruit, and we had lovely flowers for the drawing room from Mrs. Duff Miller, Miss Morris, Miss Russell, Miss Swann and Miss Walker. Miss Brown and Mr. Paterson sent us shortbread in anticipation of the New Year and from Admiral Ross we had a postman with a magnificent burden of crackers who looked down upon us benevolently in the hall from above the rows of pigeonholes for letters, throughout the whole of the Christmas days, while from Miss Ross we had crackers in tartan and tied with knots of ribbon of Stewart tartan.

Before closing this we would offer to our Members our thanks for their exceedingly generous gifts for the Christmas box for the domestic staff; these last have expressed the most warm gratitude for the kindness of the Members and have asked us to see that their thanks are offered to everyone.

## DANCE.

On November 30th the Members had a subscription dance which provided as usual an evening's enjoyment which was very greatly appreciated by the younger Members. Unfortunately we had fixed upon St. Andrew's Night, and the company was not so large as usual, but quite 50 couples were present and there was no overcrowding. As the numbers of ladies and gentlemen were evenly balanced, and all of them appeared to be people who enjoy dancing, the evening's programme more or less arranged itself. Everyone said that the dance had given great pleasure and there were repeated enquiries as to when we were going to fix a date for the next. Cook, who never thinks any trouble too great to take for the nurses, had her usual variety of all sorts of delectable things on the supper tables, which Miss Hutton had decorated artistically with gorgeous yellow chrysanthemums.

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