

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FROM HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY AND HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRESIDENT OF MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY FROM THE CORPORATION.

Buckingham Palace.
February 5th, 1936.

MADAM,—I am commanded by Queen Mary to write and acknowledge the receipt of Your Royal Highness's letter of January 24th conveying a Resolution of sympathy from the Governing Body of your Association on the death of King George V.

In reply the Queen requests me to convey to Your Royal Highness and, through you, to the General Council and Corporation of the Royal British Nurses' Association, an expression of Her Majesty's sincere thanks for the kind terms of this message.

Queen Mary is greatly touched by this thought for Her Majesty in Her overwhelming sorrow.

I have the honour to be,

Madam,

Your Royal Highness's obedient servant,

GERALD CHICHESTER,

Private Secretary to H.M. Queen Mary.

Her Royal Highness

Princess Arthur of Connaught, *President* :

The Royal British Nurses' Association.

194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

41, Belgrave Square, S.W.1.

January 31st, 1936.

DEAR MISS MACDONALD,—Will you please convey to the General Council of the Association my most grateful and sincere thanks for their expression of sympathy in our great loss?

Yours sincerely,

ALEXANDRA.

FIXTURES.

The following fixtures have been made and we hope that many of the Members may find it possible to attend. On Thursday, March 12th, at 3 p.m., Dr. Browning Alexander, M.D., F.R.C.P., will give a lecture on "The Treatment of Pneumonia with special reference to the Heart." On Thursday, March 19th, at 3 p.m., Professor Knapp-Fisher will give us a lantern lecture on "Modern Architecture," and will show a number of most interesting slides. On Thursday, March 26th, we are to have a Whist Drive in aid of the Helena Benevolent Fund at 8 p.m., and on Thursday, April 2nd, we are to go over the Royal Mint; and Members should send early notification to the Secretary of their intention to join this "Ramble."

LECTURE ON DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

By DR. DORE, M.A., F.R.C.P., M.D.

A lecture, which was listened to with great interest, was that which we had recently by Dr. Dore, formerly consulting Dermatologist to St. Thomas' Hospital, Westminster Hospital and at present to St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin.

Diagrammatically, with the help of a blackboard, Dr. Dore described the very complicated structure of the skin. In connection with perspiration he gave a short description of sudamina, the condition arising on a blockage of the ducts of the sweat glands causing tiny blisters. In relation to absorption the lecturer referred to the multiplication of "beauty parlours" at the present time, with their many advertisements of "skin foods." As a matter of fact there is no such thing as skin food, because, in so far as the structure of the skin itself is concerned, it does not absorb, although it is true that substances can reach the blood stream through the ducts of the sweat glands and the hair follicles.

Dr. Dore said that the causes of skin diseases were manifold, and it was impossible to deal with them in a lecture extending to at most two hours. Local irritation was a very common cause. Heat from a fire, particularly a gas fire, often gave rise to a mottling of the skin of the legs of a person sitting by it. This later would become brownish and ultimately assume the appearance of a map. The Doctor gave warning against excessive exposure to sunlight; the belief that sunlight was a cure for almost any ill had reached a length that had become ridiculous, and people should really be warned about the dangers of sun bathing and told that they should commence it gradually. Ultra-violet rays, etc., were all good up to a point, but must be used with caution. Dr. Dore then told something of the treatment of erythrocyanosis crurum or "artificial silk-stocking disease" and its causes. People prone to this ailment, which resembles a great chilblain just over the ankle should be advised to wear two pairs of stockings. A warning was also given against going to unqualified persons for X-ray treatment; many had gone to quacks to have superfluous hair removed and been very badly burned. Speaking of soap, Dr. Dore warned his audience against strongly alkaline soaps and advised the use of superfatted soaps. In this connection he referred to "washerwoman's eczema," and went on to mention many other types of skin disease due to industrial factors, such as dermatitis caused in gardeners from handling certain primulas, and in grocers from working amongst sugar, and so on. Dyes were also often a source of irritation giving rise to skin trouble, particularly hair dyes.

A large group of diseases were named as arising from infections (of course, excluding such diseases as measles which affect the whole body). Impetigo was described and its treatment, also ailments such as "barber's flush" and carbuncles due to staphylococcal infection. These are not deep-seated ailments as a rule, but erysipelas is of a different nature and is much more serious. Dr. Dore

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