

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

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## DECEMBER ACTIVITIES.

The Birthday Party and Sale of Work took place on December 7th. There was a smaller gathering than usual this year, probably because Monday is not a very popular day for such functions. It was in the same merry spirit, however, that we gathered about the flaming Christmas cake and Auld Lang Syne was sung with the usual gusto, but always one hears remarks recalling those familiar faces we no longer see. A smaller cake and flowers had been sent to the Founders (Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) earlier in the day. At the date of going to press, we do not know the exact result of the sale of "birthday gifts," as there is still a slight balancing of accounts to be done; but the sum resulting is somewhere between £60 and £70.

### Christmas a Lively Festival.

Christmas was the same lively festival which it always is at the Club. Miss Treasure's wonderful Christmas tree shone with all its usual brilliance, and every postman seemed to feel himself to be a sort of Father Christmas, as, with evident amusement, he came and emptied his sacks at the feet of the group around the fire and under the shadow of the Christmas tree. Mrs. Mackenzie and Miss Hutton made themselves responsible for the decorations and with artistic results. A large party gathered in for tea, but the number for Christmas dinner this year was only 32, a smaller party than in any former year. The usual toasts were responded to with the same old enthusiasm and we are indebted to many who have sought to make Christmas at headquarters as happy as possible. From Her Royal Highness the President, Princess Arthur of Connaught, we had a fine haunch of venison from the hills of Mar. Mrs. Temple, with her usual generosity, supplied many good things for our Christmas fare—wine, liqueurs, sweets, crackers and lovely flowers. From Miss Margaret Huxley, M.A., one of our Founder Members, came a splendid Christmas cake. We have already referred to Miss Treasure's beautiful Christmas tree, this wonderful tree of life and light which, for years now, has given to us such a lovely memory of Christmas time. But Miss Treasure's generosity does not end there, for she supplies the domestic staff also with a similar beautiful symbol. So busy is she that this year we had resigned ourselves to a barren hall, and there were many expressions of gratitude and pleasure when just before Christmas Eve this lovely old time symbol of hope appeared in all its gleaming glory. From Mrs. Hutton and Miss Swaby Smith we had two fine turkeys. Cakes and shortbread were sent by Mrs. Steele Smith and Mr. Paterson, and fruit by Miss H. L. Hill. We had massive boxes of chocolates and other sweets from Mrs. Ross, Miss Brown, Miss Cullinan, Miss Devlin, and Miss Swaby Smith. Lovely flowers were received from Mrs. Crassweller, Mrs. Duff-Miller, Miss Swann, Miss F. Macdonald, Miss Ingman, Miss Walker, Miss O'Donovan, Mrs. Rees, Miss Cavanagh, Miss Ross and others. From Dr. Rice-Oxley we received the usual very beautiful calendar

which he sends for the nurses' drawing room each year. The domestic staff presented a magnificent basket of fruit.

### The Calendar Scheme.

The accounts of the Calendar scheme (to provide for our very scattered Christmas party of sick and aged colleagues) have not been audited yet, but we sent grants from £1 to £3 (mostly the former sum) to over 170 sick and aged nurses to provide them with comfort and cheer for Christmas Day. We sent these cheques out with the good wishes of the nurses to arrive on December 23rd, and have had many letters asking us to convey gratitude for our somewhat novel method of holding a Christmas party. One wrote of how she had bought a stove for her damp cold bedroom after providing her Christmas fare, another bought a pair of nice shoes, and one "never knew before how far a pound could go." All honour to them, they thought not of themselves and their future in the days when they gave long hours and strenuous labour for the suffering. We wish to acknowledge gifts sent by nurses to some of them independently. One nurse rejoiced in a Christmas hamper in addition to her grant, another received a new and beautifully knitted jumper, another had nice warm vests and still another a nice coat. We, too, would express appreciation of the generosity and kindness in connection with our scheme. All the accounts are not in, but it looks as though we should have somewhere in the neighbourhood of £10 at least over, and this will be used either for hospitality and kindness throughout the year or else to help with the expenses of next year's calendar, for which we have got a great idea—but that is a secret for the present! We cannot close this short account of our calendar scheme without referring to the most valuable voluntary help which we have received from Mrs. Mackenzie, Miss Margaret Brown and Miss Swaby Smith. They worked untiringly for weeks in order that this Christmas benevolence might prove a success.

## LECTURE.

### THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF SOME COMMON DISEASES OF THE BLADDER AND KIDNEYS.

By MR. J. C. AINSWORTH-DAVIES, F.R.C.S.

Mr. Ainsworth-Davies based his lecture on the importance of early and careful examination of all cases of suspected disease of the urinary tract. He deplored the fact that, too often in any departure from the normal, the possibility of kidney trouble is not considered. A patient may be brought into hospital complaining of violent abdominal pain and the surgeon may perform a laparotomy, only to find that the trouble is not in the abdomen but in the kidney. It is possible to remove a kidney by the abdominal route, but this is very unnecessarily complicated. On the other hand, it is essential, before operating on a kidney, to be sure that the other one is performing correctly its functions. Mr. Ainsworth-Davies mentioned

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