

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## INVITATION.

Miss Macdonald will be At Home from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 19th, at 194, Queen's Gate, and she hopes that members will regard this as an invitation to be present.

## CHRISTMAS CALENDAR.

As has already been intimated, our Christmas Calendar is now ready for those who wish to obtain copies to send as Christmas gifts. We shall be most grateful if all who are kind enough to help us, in this piece of benevolence, will send their orders as soon as possible. Along with the usual office duties the work of dealing with the calendars becomes quite overwhelming as Christmas draws near and, if we can get a large number sent off earlier, this adds greatly to the ease with which the work is organised, for indeed it does require a very considerable amount of organisation to carry it out efficiently.

The purpose of this piece of work is to raise a sum by means of which we send, to a large number of our sick and aged colleagues, cheques of from one to three pounds in order that we may ensure for them comfort at Christmas time. The good cheer thus provided has been enormously appreciated in the past and the light that comes from "being remembered" at Christmas time seems to shine all through the year that follows, judging by references that have arisen in certain letters. Sometimes a Christmas party is achieved when some other lonely one is invited in by the recipient of a cheque, to share our very scattered Christmas "hospitality." Very often some nice garment is bought as a Christmas present and frequently a stock of coal has been laid in for the winter and, one aged nurse said, "I think of you all as I sit in comfort before a fire which, but for you, I would not have enjoyed." And we, in our turn, may think of that little fire as a veritable altar of love and seek to bring down blessings on her, and others, by working hard once more on our Christmas scheme.

But it is not the sick and aged nurses alone who benefit. We too get our treasures. It is not for nothing that we read each day some gem from the mind of a great thinker, or beautiful poet. It may receive our attention but for the space of a moment, but, and especially when read in the morning before the turmoil of the day has begun, it reaches down into the subconscious and there continues silently its work, not influencing thought alone, but helping towards a clearer vision of the affairs of life and of all that surrounds us in the universe; thereby, as a poetically minded writer has put it, "helping the spirit to weave a garment for the soul." People forget that it is quite often those things that just meet us for a passing moment that have the greatest influence, especially in a sub-conscious way. There is something too that has its constructive, if invisible, force in the fact that probably thousands of our colleagues are at the same time absorbing the same thought.

Last year we sent cheques to about a hundred and seventy nurses. We have not yet revised the list for the coming Christmas, but the number to be sent is likely to be larger rather than smaller, so that we hope that members will put all the activity they can into the work of helping us to sell the Calendar. There are a number who are most kind in this matter and send us one large order after another while others write or speak to their friends individually about the scheme and so help to promote its benefits.

The Calendar for this year is entitled "Women of the Profession of Letters." It has been a difficult one to compile as it is to be remembered that there were few women writers up to the nineteenth century; undoubtedly there were very great women thinkers and writers in the early Christian centuries and in the Middle Ages, but unfortunately few of their works have been preserved and from the Reformation onwards their number decreased. The plan of confining the year's quotations to women writers has not been without its fruit, however; many lines are very beautiful, and others are characterised by clear thinking and intellect, but the main effect has been that somehow, in reading through the collection, the Calendar is given, in some intangible way, quite a different character from any previous one. The cost of it is, as in previous years, one shilling and sixpence. Those who wish to order copies should write to the office. Bookshops have frequently asked us to supply them, but if we made this arrangement it would affect seriously the sum available for the original purpose and so we rely more or less entirely on the nurses in achieving conjointly much appreciated Christmas benevolence and kindness to many lonely colleagues cut off from the work they loved.

## MISS LUCY DAW.

### A DISTINGUISHED MATRON FROM THE ISLAND CONTINENT.

Congress Year has brought to us great riches of new friendships, and we have had the joy of welcoming at headquarters a large number of Members from other parts of the world whose acquaintance we had not made before. None have we welcomed with greater pleasure than Miss Lucy Daw, Matron of the Adelaide Hospital in South Australia. Miss Daw's charming personality and her joy in every new experience made her very popular in the continually changing group of Members at the Club when she sandwiched in a short visit between those she made to Scotland and several Continental countries. Miss Daw is an enthusiastic horsewoman and member of a riding club in Adelaide, and so it is not surprising to find that she made the most of such an adventure as Congress Year and an extended leave of absence, provided in order to make the acquaintance of as many other peoples and countries as was possible; especially did she enjoy her visit to Scandinavia where she was received with true northern hospitality.

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