

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

OBITUARY.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT, P.C., K.G., K.T., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.

It was with a sense of very deep sorrow that members of the Association received the news of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Arthur of Connaught after a long illness which, in its later stages especially, was attended with much suffering, borne with great fortitude and courage. We have received many letters from members giving expression to their feelings of sympathy with Her Royal Highness the President, Princess Arthur of Connaught.

The notices which appeared in the Press have acquainted us with many aspects of the public life and activities of the Prince, some of which we had perhaps forgotten, so versatile and wide were his interests in all that concerned the nation. The son of a soldier, who had distinguished himself in active service, it is not surprising to find that Prince Arthur chose the Army for a career, and he served with distinction both in South Africa and in the Great War. He was Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Scots Greys at the time of his death. Prince Arthur undertook important diplomatic service from time to time, and in 1920 he was appointed Governor-General of South Africa, and his term of office there was extended two years beyond the term for which he was appointed. Such was the nature of the services he rendered to the Crown and Empire, but in many other respects His Royal Highness participated in public life, and the Universities of both Oxford and Cambridge conferred Honorary Degrees upon him. But perhaps the nurses will remember longest the energy and enthusiasm which characterised his work in connection with the hospitals. He was Chairman of the Middlesex Hospital, and no small part of its progress and development were due to his activities and efforts; he was President of the West London Hospital, and of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital.

In 1913, His Royal Highness was married to Her Highness the Duchess of Fife, daughter of the Princess Royal, and she showed her interest in nursing in a most practical way, for she trained as a nurse and had her name placed upon the State Register of Nurses very soon after this was established. There is one son of the marriage, the Earl of Macduff, who is heir-apparent to his grandfather's dukedom of Connaught and Strathearn and his mother's dukedom of Fife. In writing of her sympathy with Her Royal Highness, a nurse tells us of how she once met the Prince, and he told her, with evident pride, that his wife was a Regis-

tered Nurse and President of the Royal British Nurses' Association. And this has been the attitude of both the Prince and Princess always. There was no thought of patronage or of conferring any honour upon the profession when Her Royal Highness qualified. Rather, they have given the feeling that they took the view, well expressed by a speaker at the last meeting at which the Princess was present here, when the former said that Her Royal Highness "had honoured herself" by taking the qualification that entitled her to recognition by the State as a registered nurse.

It was a beautiful idea that he should rest, for a few days, in the lovely chapel of the Middlesex Hospital (the hospital which he had loved and for which he had done so much), before the journey to St. George's Chapel at Windsor. It must have been an inspiring experience for those nurses who were privileged to watch there while the coffin, draped with the Standard of the Prince, stood before the altar.

At the memorial service, the Association was represented by Miss Beatrice Cutler, Nurse Hon. Secretary, and, in accordance with the wishes of Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur, the Association's tribute took the form of a donation to the Cancer Wing of the Middlesex Hospital.

At a special meeting of the Council of the Association, the following resolutions were passed by silent up-standing vote:—

I

"That the General Council, on behalf of all members of the Association, shall convey to Her Royal Highness the President, Princess Arthur of Connaught, R.R.C., S.R.N., an expression of respectful and heartfelt sympathy in the irreparable loss which Her Royal Highness has sustained by the death of His Royal Highness Prince Arthur of Connaught, and, further, that the Council give expression, at the same time, to their appreciation of all that Their Royal Highnesses have done to promote the welfare of the sick and to emphasise and uphold the importance of high standards of nursing."

II

"That the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association request Her Royal Highness the President to be graciously pleased to convey, on behalf of the Association, an expression of respectful and sincere sympathy to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on the loss of his son, His Royal Highness Prince Arthur of Connaught. The Association desires to express its admiration of the service which the Prince has rendered to the Empire and particularly do the nurses appreciate his solicitude for the welfare of the sick."

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