

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

SALE OF WORK.

The Annual Birthday Party of the Association and gift sale for the House Beautiful Fund will take place on Wednesday, December 7th, the usual date. The Sale will commence at 2 p.m., and the birthday tea will be at 4 p.m. We hope to see the usual large reunion of members to share our birthday cake, which is now so thickly covered with candles that it assumes the character almost of a small bonfire. We all look forward greatly to happy meetings with old friends and new. The sale of gifts provides plenty of amusement throughout the afternoon, and we thank those who have already sent many pretty things and some very beautiful work. The private nurses in particular are exceptionally clever with their needles, and very dainty and artistic work comes from their deft fingers that we may add to the beauty of their Home from Home.

FIXTURES.

On Thursday, November 17th, at 8 p.m., there is to be a whist drive in aid of the Helena Benevolent Fund, and the Members' dance will be held at 194, Queen's Gate from 8 to 12 p.m., on Saturday, November 26th.

We are also arranging lectures on the nursing of eye cases and on radiology, but it has not yet been possible to fix definitely the dates for these. These lectures should prove very useful, and particulars as to dates, etc., can be had within the next few days from the office. The excellent lecture on Venereal Disease, by Mr. Hamish Nicol, F.R.C.S., will be reported in a later issue of the JOURNAL.

Dr. Cochrane Shanks will deliver the lecture on the latter subject.

A GENEROUS GIFT.

We have received another gift of £200 from the generous donor who recently gave us £500 to help to endow the scheme for sending cheques to sick and aged nurses at Christmas time; he has also informed us that he intends to make his donation up to the sum of £1,000. The Fairies have also been "bizzy," like the brownie in the barn, and £50 has been added to the fund from the little book on the Fairy Tradition, the cost of which is one shilling.

A RAMBLE IN OLD CHELSEA.

"The Wonderful Village."

The Ramblers enjoyed recently a long afternoon in Old Chelsea, this "wonderful village" that, not so many years ago, lay outside the limits of London. It has indeed a wealth of historical, literary, artistic and political associations. Many famous personalities have lived there, as, for instance, Sir Thomas More, Sir Hans Sloane, Morris, Pepys, Turner, and many more. In the old Manor House that was, dwelt from time to time the Queens Mary, Elizabeth, Lady Jane Grey and Katherine Parr. Chelsea, too, had its courtesans, notably Nell Gwyn; the fact that she had a residence in Chelsea may have given rise to the fallacy that she inspired the building of the Chelsea Hospital. We

spent a very interesting time enjoying the stately beauty of this architectural creation of Sir Christopher Wren. In its Great Hall the body of the Duke of Wellington lay in state just 86 years ago. The chapel is beautiful with its banners bearing traces of time and active service, and the carvings of Grinling Gibbons here, and elsewhere in the hospital, make one regret that wood is less used now than in the Middle Ages for artistic work, for it can make a very plastic medium on which to work. In the burial ground of the hospital is the tomb of that famous surgeon William Cheseldon of the eighteenth century who, according to Pope, was "the most noted and deserving man in all the profession of chirurgery, and he saved the lives of thousands by his manner of operating for stone."

The Botanic Garden in Chelsea is the oldest of its kind in England, for that made by Gerard, the great Herbalist of the Middle Ages, has long ago vanished. Sir Hans Sloane, the physician, made the Chelsea Garden over to the Society of Apothecaries in 1722 on condition that it should "at all times be continued as a physic garden for the manifestation of the power and wisdom and goodness of God in creation, and that the apprentices might learn to distinguish good and useful plants from hurtful ones." The Company has done its best to observe the injunctions regarding this Garden of Simples under somewhat unfavourable circumstances in later times, for Chelsea has ceased to be a sunny village watered by the Thames.

We spent some time in that queer-looking, roomy, wainscoted house which once so thrilled Jane Carlyle. We examined the museum of treasures there and pictured the choleric Thomas Carlyle busy in its garret and the "Little Charlotte" working lightheartedly in the kitchen.

Chelsea Old Church was another of the afternoon's attractions, and parts of it date from the fourteenth century. It has, in its interior, retained more of the old world look than any other church in London, for it has escaped the attention of the "restorers" in great measure. In the corner of its burial ground is the grave of Sir Hans Sloane, the first physician to receive the honour of Knighthood; he was physician to Queen Anne, but was spoken of, too, as "the physician of the poor"; crowds of them attended his funeral when he was taken to his resting-place by the riverside. Most of all is the church entwined with memories of Sir Thomas More, and there are many interesting monuments, notably that to Lady Jane Dudley, who saw her husband and son executed on Tower Hill and her second son die a prisoner in the Tower. She bore her sorrows "with wisdom and prudence," and apparently the good lady had no tolerance of post-mortem examinations, for she left the direction "in no wise am I to be opened after I am dead. I have not lived to be very bold afore women and much more would I lothe to come into the hands of any living man be he physician or surgeon."

In the old days the river must have been a constant attraction with its vessels of every kind, many for pleasure, others carrying unfortunates to the Traitors' Gate, some concerned with matters of defence, many with trade.

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