

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH.

A MUCH PRIZED GIFT.

It is with great gratification and pleasure that we have received, from Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, a very beautiful signed portrait of herself which will remain one of the most prized possessions of the Association long after those who now guide its destinies and compose its membership have handed over their tasks and responsibilities to others. It is an especial pleasure also to be able to reproduce the portrait in our Christmas number so that those of our members, who are not often at Headquarters, may share in the gift to a greater extent.

Queen Elizabeth has endeared herself to none more than to the nurses, for scarcely a week passes without a visit from Her Majesty to one or other of our hospitals and the happiest pictures of the Queen are always those in which she is seen among the children. Quite recently she has visited the two great London hospitals for children, and pictures of Her Majesty, among her child subjects, have appeared in the press which cannot but give the greatest pleasure to every lover of children. Her thought for the sick is only one aspect of the attraction of the Lady of Glamis, who was so unexpectedly called to fill the greatest position for any woman in the Empire and who fills that position so greatly and yet with a charm so peculiarly her own.

It is a very interesting point that Queen Elizabeth is the first Scottish lady to ascend the throne of England since "The Lady Matilda of Scotland," as the people named her, became the wife of Henry I of England in A.D. 1100. A daughter of Malcolm Canmore and Queen Margaret of Scotland, she also, like our present Queen, had lovely and endearing qualities, but specially in this connection we would draw attention to the fact that she also showed her solicitude for the sick and the suffering. She built the first London Hospital, that of St. Giles in the Fields, unless we wish to regard as a hospital a small establishment for female lepers which existed previously where St. James's Palace now stands. Queen Matilda also interested herself in finding means to help women in childbirth, and we must not forget that it was her husband, Henry I, who gave a Charter and land for St. Bartholomew's Hospital, although Rahere was its actual founder. "The Lady Matilda" followed the example of her great mother, Saint Margaret, and regarded it as a prerogative of Queens to use their power and influence to promote the welfare of the sick and the suffering. Her example is nobly followed by the next

lady of Scottish birth (more than eight hundred years after) to occupy the throne in England.

Therefore, when we look upon our beautiful picture of Her Majesty, it will be with the feeling that we have her interest, sympathy and encouragement for the work we all love, and this will, if possible, enhance the value of the picture so graciously sent for our Headquarters. At the request of the Executive Committee, Her Royal Highness the President, Princess Arthur of Connaught, R.R.C., S.R.N., has graciously consented to convey the thanks of the Corporation to Her Majesty.

LECTURE.

ELIZABETH FRY.

By Miss MAUDE TIPPER.

Elizabeth Fry was born on May 21st, 1780, and died on October 12th, 1845, at the age of 65. She was one of the twelve children of John and Elizabeth Gurney, of Earham Hall. With one exception, all of them kept diaries. The family were of a Quaker stock. The mother died when Elizabeth (or Betsy, as she was called) was 12 years old, and the children were brought up by Catherine, who was only 17 when her mother died. They were a lively family, and not under any strict régime, nor did they wear Quaker dress. They were privileged to be in a circle in which there were many eminent people, which no doubt had a certain influence in the moulding of their characters and in widening their knowledge.

Miss Tipper referred to the difficulties of women in getting any solitude at that time, and instanced several, noted in literature, who were compelled to do their writing in a corner of the family dining or drawing room, while the man of the family had his quiet study. The influence of William Savery upon Elizabeth Fry was referred to. She had just reached the age which is often characterised by a certain restlessness, and a dissatisfaction with the ordinary routine of life. As a result, Mr. Gurney decided upon the usual panacea at that time for such a frame of mind, and Elizabeth was sent on a visit to London. Her aim there was to taste the world. She loved dancing and theatres, and enjoyed herself as a healthy beautiful girl can. She had a lovely, moving voice, which was one of her chief attractions throughout her life. It was in London that Joseph Fry fell in love with her; he proved a very persistent wooer, and did not allow a rebuff in London to prevent him from securing later an invitation from Mr. Gurney to Earham (the home of Elizabeth Fry). The Quakers, as a rule, did not wear jewellery, but on their engagement Elizabeth Fry accepted a watch and long gold chain from Mr. Fry, which she wore throughout her life, sometimes to the trepidation of the prison authorities, for she refused to take it off even at the risk of having it stolen during her visits to the prisoners.

Miss Tipper gave us a sad picture of the social conditions

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)