

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

There was a large attendance at the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, June 1st, and lively discussions arose on many matters which came under consideration. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., was in the Chair.

In commenting upon the Report of the Executive Committee, Miss Schuller said that what pleased her most in that Report, and what she regarded as very important from a professional point of view, was the evidence which the Report gave of vigilance on the part of the Committee. Matters affecting the welfare of the profession had not been allowed to slide past, the easy course had not been chosen, but instead the Committee had been alert to what they regarded as dangerous from a professional point of view. The members owed their gratitude for all they had done in connection with the hard struggle in which the Association was at present engaged to protect professional standards and ideals. Other members spoke and the Chairman paid a tribute to the work of the Secretary of the Association.

The Report of the Hon. Treasurer showed, in the General Fund, a balance of income over expenditure of £69 10s. 10d., and the Settlement Accounts also showed a balance on the right side amounting to £11 7s. 9d. The accounts of the Helena Benevolent Fund were not so satisfactory, as in these there was indicated a deficit of £13 14s. 2d. The Hon. Treasurer said that it was exceedingly difficult to balance income and expenditure in this Fund as the Committee had to be influenced so much by the claims of the sick and aged members who were in need of assistance. The expenditure on repairs had been heavier than usual during 1938 as expensive repairs had been called for in connection with the lift and equally expensive renewals in connection with the hot water supply. The Hon. Treasurer expressed the thanks of the Executive Committee and her own for all the generosity of the members towards their Association and particularly to its benevolent funds; their kindness had enabled the Committee to meet every claim for help that had come before them throughout the year.

The following were elected members of the Council to fill vacancies arising under bye-law VII :—

Medical Men.—Dr. Beddard, Dr. Duff-Miller, Dr. Haydon, Dr. King Brown, Dr. Lambert, Dr. Liston, Dr. Maxwell Simpson, Dr. Nicholson, Mr. Nicol, Dr. Rice-Oxley.

Matrons.—Miss Allbutt, S.R.N., Miss Allen, S.R.N., Miss Cowie, S.R.N., Miss Davy, S.R.N., Miss Farrant,

S.R.N., Miss Gray, S.R.N., Miss Haldane, S.R.N., Miss Le Geyt, S.R.N., Mrs. Lediard, S.R.N., Miss Villiers, S.R.N.

Sisters and Nurses.—Miss Armstrong, S.R.N., Miss Aldridge, S.R.N., Miss Chidley, S.R.N., Miss Chitson, S.R.N., Miss Hussey, S.R.N., Miss McGregor, S.R.N., Miss Morley, S.R.N., Miss Rossiter, S.R.N., Miss Schuller, S.R.N., Miss Walker, S.R.N.

The Financial Statement.

In commenting on the Financial Statement the Chairman said that it was exceedingly satisfactory that the Association was able to show a balance on the right side in the accounts of the General Fund. Most balance sheets which she had read recently were in the reverse position. The expenses connected with the upkeep of such a fine property as that occupied by the Association were very heavy indeed and the excellent condition in which it was kept involved heavy costs for repairs, decoration and other items connected with maintaining the beautiful surroundings in which the members found themselves during the afternoon. Reference was made to the generous amount received during the year in legacies from members and to Dr. Moorhead's munificence to the Benevolent Fund in establishing therein a memorial to his late wife who was a member of the Association.

A Resolution sent up from the Executive Committee for the consideration of the General Meeting was read and, with one slight amendment, carried unanimously. On its being moved, seconded and carried that it be received a very long and interesting discussion took place. Letters were read conveying the information that during the previous month the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, sitting *in camera*, had given its approval to the Recommendation of the Inter-Departmental Committee that there be established, under the aegis of the Nurses' Registration Act, a Roll of partially trained women and also that the General Nursing Council had expressed its willingness to compile such a Roll. Disapproval and indignation were expressed by the members that the Council should have formed such a decision without consulting the Registered Nurses who had for twenty years met the enormous expenditure required to maintain their Register and to administer the Act.

Very strong criticisms were expressed upon the fact that the Council had arrived at such a tremendous reversal of the purposes and provisions of the Act while sitting *in camera*. Members evidently felt that they had a moral right to learn of the whole discussion

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