

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION WHO ARE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY.

Our Official Organ had already gone to press when news came of the outbreak of war. We have only time to send a short message to all those Members of the Association who are serving their country in time of war, whether at home or abroad. May God bless them and their work, and have them in His keeping in times of peril and stress. We thank them for all they are doing and wish them well.

LECTURE.

"THE CITY GUILDS."

By Harry Collison, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

The lecture which Mr. Collison was kind enough to give to us some weeks ago on the old City Guilds was most interesting. He commenced by saying that these old Livery Companies were, in a certain respect, analogous to the Trade Unions of the present time. They were semi-religious and each guarded its own "mysteries"; each company had its own rights and duties, members of them were freemen and citizens and each Guild had its own master and its livery. They looked after the sick and the poor and did good to one another. There are seventy-eight in existence and the members of each have a dress or livery of the fourteenth century. Every year at mid-summer they meet in the Common Hall to elect the Sheriffs, the Chamberlain of London and the Aldermen. At Michaelmas they elect the Lord Mayor.

Mr. Collison described those guilds as the nursery of good citizens and enumerated duties and privileges belonging to certain of them from medieval days that still pertain to them now. It is interesting to trace their association with ancient London through names of certain streets at the present time, and several churches have interesting connections with them. The pageantry and symbolism that belongs to them is delightful and some of this was described in the lecture. Even the King cannot enter the City of London on certain occasions without the sanction of the ancient City Guilds.

The lecturer showed how beneficent in the City of London had been the activities of the Guilds. One thing they had protected in olden times was what might be regarded as the sanctity of the worker; no one was admitted to these Guilds without a very long apprenticeship to the particular craft or activity of the Guild which he sought to enter. It was the duty of the Guilds to protect their members from competition with those who had not reached the standards of efficiency they set up. The traditions of the past are the very bulwarks of these great companies and they possess vast dignity from the high place that each took as custodians of the "mysteries" of the barber surgeons, the leathersmiths, the grocers, or whatever

class of worker they represented. The "mysteries" of course represented the highly developed knowledge of his craft or trade that was demanded of every man who sought admission to his appropriate Guild.

SALE OF WORK.

Members tell us that they like to be reminded early about the Sale of Work so that their needles may get busy and indeed several have started making pretty articles for it. It will be held in December as usual and we shall be very glad to receive gifts for it throughout the autumn.

CALENDAR.

The Calendar, from which we send out a Christmas Banquet to over two hundred nurses, will shortly be ready and we hope that members will give their help, as in former years, in getting it sold as there are so very many cheques to be sent out. The title of the calendar is "The Spirit of Man is the Candle of the Lord," and it comprises quotations from a very large number of writers. We hope that it will prove as popular as in the past.

EXTRACT FROM DR. STEVENSON'S RECENT LECTURE ON RHEUMATISM.

The recognition of a possible bacterial cause of rheumatism set research workers hot foot on the trail of focal sepsis. While there may have been periods when there has been a rather over-enthusiastic eradication of any and all possible sepsis, proved or only just suspected, the fact must be admitted that time after time the eradication of a septic tooth for example has been the first thing to give any relief from some resistant form of rheumatism; and while on this subject of teeth and focal sepsis I might perhaps be allowed a more personal word. I have been impressed by the relatively few people in adult life who can still boast of their own natural teeth; I have been amazed to find how often teeth extraction seems almost to have been light-heartedly carried out at the request of the patient. I suppose it is really a reflection both on human nature itself, and upon our profession also, that there will always be someone who would rather have all his teeth extracted than have the trouble of keeping them in order; there will also always be someone ready to extract such teeth. But one cannot help wishing that even more conservatism could be exercised in this matter and above all I do wish that it were economically possible to carry out any required mouth clearances in very gradual stages. Inasmuch as there is an abscess at a tooth root or aural sepsis which is giving rise to general toxic symptoms we may assume that the bodily defensive forces have been unable to keep this sepsis under control. It is, therefore, only injuring the body more and over straining an already strained defensive mechanism if we extract, at one sitting, ten or twenty teeth. You do not have to look far to see cases of crippling arthritis where the real exciting cause to aggravation of the condition has been the wholesale extraction of septic teeth.

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