

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

GREETINGS FROM HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRESIDENT.

DEAR MISS MACDONALD,

Will you please convey to the Members of the Association all my good wishes for Christmas time and the coming year. I know that large numbers of them have left their homes and their posts to serve their king and country, and I should like to send them greetings and to wish them God-speed.

I am, Yours sincerely,

ALEXANDRA,
President.

GOOD WISHES AND GRATITUDE TO OUR HON. MEDICAL OFFICER.

The good wishes of very many Members of the Association go out to Lieut.-Colonel Douglas Rice-Oxley, M.C., M.D., and to the work in which he is engaged "somewhere in France." Dr. Rice-Oxley was mobilised from the R.A.M.C., T.A. Reserve, almost immediately on the outbreak of hostilities. He is now officer-in-charge of the Medical Division of a Hospital in France.

It is to be remembered that Lieut.-Colonel Rice-Oxley served throughout the war of 1914-1918 when he was mentioned in Dispatches and awarded the Military Cross. He also holds the Territorial decoration.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

The Christmas Dinner.

Christmas dinner at the Club will commence at 6.30 p.m. on Christmas day and we shall be glad to hear from Members who wish to attend or to stay the night. We have to remind them also of a larger and very scattered banquet, *i.e.*, from the cheques we send to sick and aged nurses for comfort and cheer on Christmas day. We hope that by then a sufficient number of calendars will have been sold to supply the sum required.

A PROTEST.

Nurses have felt very keenly the position which has arisen as a result of the employment at this time of still larger numbers than ever of those who are inadequately qualified to be entrusted with the care of the sick. None more than the nurses were ready to place their qualifications and service at the disposal of their country in its time of need, and they consider that the extent to which their willingness has been ignored, in favour of those who have never sought to attain to the standard recognised by the General Nursing Council, is nothing short of a degradation of their profession at the hands of the authorities responsible.

It is felt that the latter have deliberately set the half-qualified in direct competition (not to mention certain aspects of undercutting) with those who have stood the hard tests of training and examination demanded in order to receive the recognition of the State as being qualified to undertake the nursing of the sick. The following letter has been forwarded from the Executive Committee to the Minister of Health.

Royal British Nurses' Association,
194, Queen's Gate,
London, S.W.7.
23rd November, 1939.

The Right Hon. the Minister of Health,
Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Executive Committee of this Association to enter a strong protest against the employment of large numbers of partially qualified women in hospitals and other institutions (including the Civil Nursing Service Reserve) which are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health. The substitution, to an unlimited extent, of the services of half-qualified persons for those of the Registered Nurses has resulted in supreme injustice to the latter, who, it is to be remembered, have gone through long and arduous training and submitted themselves for examination by the State. The result of ignoring, to such a degree, their qualifications, and thus incidentally the standards set up by the State, cannot but act as a deterrent to many well-educated and capable young women who might enter the profession. But, at the moment, the economic injustice from which they are suffering is felt most keenly by the nurses, and they urge us to express their views upon the situation very strongly in the hope that you will take steps to have the position remedied and thus give to the patients greater assurance of skilled care and to the nurses the recognition and justice due to them.

The Committee would also bring before you a point which they regard as of importance. They hold the view that, when reference is made to the Registered Nurses, their full title (as indicating their professional attainment) should be accorded to them in publications issued by the Ministry. It is the practice in these simply to refer to "trained nurses," which might equally include the partially qualified. The term "trained" possesses no significance whatever as to whether a woman has reached the standard of qualification required by the General Nursing Council, and its indiscriminate use places the Registered Nurses in a category which includes persons far below them in efficiency and nursing knowledge.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary.

194, Queen's Gate,
London, S.W.7.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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