

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

---

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

---

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

We have to remind Members of the Association that all annual subscriptions fall due in January. It will be a very great help to us if these are sent in early; thereby we shall be saved the necessity for sending out reminders, a matter of some importance in days when we are working with a depleted office staff. The amount of the annual subscription to the Association is five shillings. Many Members like to contribute to the various sections of the Association in which they are interested at this time and sometimes they write and ask questions regarding the purposes of the different funds. It may be helpful therefore if we enumerate these.

The Helena Benevolent Fund, which received its name from our late President, Princess Christian (not from St. Helena of Rome as was recently assumed), is a fund from which help is sent to Members of the Association who are suffering from old age or illness and whose means are limited. Occasionally also it grants small annuities, but its resources are more often applied to relieving cases of emergency, although sometimes it supplies the means for a much-needed holiday and rest. If every Member would give at least the small sum of one shilling to this fund its beneficent work would be appreciably increased, but it is only a section of the Members who make a point of subscribing to it each year. We shall be the more grateful for any sums sent us this year as we are not able to hold any of the little social fixtures and entertainments through which we were accustomed to increase its income.

The Settlement Fund maintains a Home for ten nurses, Members of the Association who have retired from active practice. At the moment we have one empty room, but the Committee refrained from allocating this in view of the possibility of air raids. The nurses who live in the home express much appreciation of their pleasant rooms with their large windows, and in spring and summer they regard the garden as not the least of the amenities they enjoy.

The Trained Nurses Annuity Fund is giving well over seventy annuities to sick and aged nurses. Its benefits are not confined to Members of the Association except in the case of a few annuities specially earmarked. As a matter of fact a very small proportion of the annuitants are Members of the Association, for the Council make it a rule to assist first those who appear to be in greatest need; when there is doubt on this point preference is given to the first of those to make application.

The House Beautiful Fund is used in helping to maintain the beauty of our home at Queen's Gate, and gifts towards it will be specially appreciated in time of war when we find it difficult to achieve the usual amount of redecoration undertaken annually. Likewise will subscriptions to the General Purposes Fund be very acceptable, for the financial side of our administration is one that calls for a great deal of consideration and care at the present time, especially when so very many Members are away and are not therefore making the same use of their club.

## OBITUARY.

### MARGARET HUXLEY, M.A., R.G.N., F.B.C.N.

Once again we have to report the deaths of Members who took an interest in the Association and proved themselves very true friends to it. Miss Margaret Huxley, of Elpis, Dublin, was well known to many Members at Headquarters and never failed to visit us once or twice when in London; on the last occasion it was on a Sunday afternoon that she came in and joined the always rather large group of Members who gather on that day. We can remember her with an interested audience listening to the experiences of her pioneer days in Dublin.

Miss Huxley was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and in 1883 she was appointed Matron of the Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin; shortly after that she was asked to accept the matronship of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, and she held this post for eighteen years. On leaving this a sum of money was collected to be used as a farewell gift to her, but she refused to accept it and asked that it be used to provide a Medal for which nurses in training at the Hospital would compete. On leaving the Hospital she established the Elpis Nursing Home, for, at that time, there was no provision in Dublin for nursing private patients outside their own homes. But perhaps Miss Huxley's greatest work was the organisation of the Metropolitan Technical School for Nurses. While she was active in founding this, she was also working hard for the cause of State Registration. Miss Huxley was also actively interested in social questions, particularly in connection with housing problems, and there is a street in Dublin which bears her name.

It was in 1928 that Trinity College, Dublin, recognised the great services of Miss Huxley to the city of Dublin, and particularly to the cause of Nursing Education, by conferring upon her the degree of Master of Arts; this honour gave to her great pleasure perhaps because, by possessing it, she was upholding the traditions of her family, several members of which have been famed for their intellectual gifts.

Speaking at her Memorial service, the Rev. E. Savill Hicks said of Miss Huxley: "She leaves with all who knew her intimately the memory of a very wonderful personality. A brilliant organiser, a grimly determined fighter of abuses, the most generous of friends, the kindest and most dignified of teachers, she belonged to the best type the Victorian age produced in its golden prime. Above all, those of us who knew her best will always associate with her the memory of a personality of quite exceptional sweetness and understanding, one who was incapable of an unjust or ungenerous act, one whose word was her bond and one, above all, whose simplest and quietest expressions of judgment or opinion seemed in some way to carry with them the whole weight of her tremendously forceful character."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)