

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

We thank our members for many kind letters and beautiful cards with good wishes which have reached Headquarters during Easter time, and we are gratified that those who make use of the Club frequently do not forget their "Home from Home" now that they are, many of them, so far away and engaged in what is often exceedingly arduous duty; we are not likely to see much of them while the war lasts, but it is a great pleasure when one and another drops in when passing through London. We send to them all good wishes and thanks for so many kind remembrances.

Now that Spring has come to defy the "black-out," we can, to a certain extent, forget "the winter of our discontent," as Shakespeare puts it, and hope that before another draws near better conditions may be in sight; but even the war cannot annihilate the pleasure that comes of looking forward to the beautiful months ahead of us. Two members have communicated with us suggesting that, in spite of difficult conditions, we should have "the usual Primrose Ramble in April." It has been such a joyous affair in the past, they say, and why not make the best of things? We had to remind them, however, that it is not want of will, but the difficulty of making arrangements, that debars us from carrying out our usual programmes month by month; to provide a charabanc and make certain other arrangements would be to incur costs not likely to be met at the present time, because so few of those now in London would be able to have a free day. It takes a great deal from the activity and life at Headquarters to have had to discard all the fixtures, or at least most of them, and we can only look forward to happier days ahead some time. Meantime, it is by no means an easy matter with all the complications, economic and otherwise that are incident to the times, to carry on all the varied branches of work, and we are very grateful for the interest which our members show in them, and for the generous subscriptions sent from time to time to make the problems of organisation less serious.

HELENA BENEVOLENT FUND.

We would specially remind our members again of the Helena Benevolent Fund which makes each month its grants to members who have, as it was once expressed, "landed on a bad patch." In these difficult days there are many among our older members who require a little extra help, while others have had temporary illnesses owing often to overwork. Through the medium of this benevolent fund members can be of mutual assistance to one another. Even if the sum of one shilling only be sent by each and every member this will enable us to meet the increased claims upon the Fund. We are having little collecting cards printed for small sums, and we should be glad to hear from members who would care to take one of these. Also it has been suggested that we have a little "bring and buy" sale, to help on benevolence, in the near future, and perhaps members who would help to organise

this would kindly inform the office of their willingness to do so.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret that we have received notice of the death of Miss Caroll Dempster, who joined the Association in 1891, and was one of those early members who took an active part in its affairs. She was a very frequent visitor when we had our Headquarters in Orchard Street, and at that time she was Matron of one of the most successful nursing homes in London. She and the late Miss Alice Cattell were always closely associated, and although we have heard little of Miss Dempster since the Corporation moved to another part of London, we have pleasant recollections of her intimacy and interest in former days.

It is with deep regret also that we have to report the deaths of Miss Mary Wilson and Miss Gillingham, both early members of the Association, whose homes were in the provinces.

It is always sad to receive intimation of the passing of those who belonged to the Association in its earlier days, and to realise how, as the years go on, the Association grows the poorer for the loss of such friends.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

Since war commenced a much larger number of members have failed to keep us up in their addresses, an omission which we deplore, for it completely prevents us from keeping in touch with them, and in some cases it has led to what might prove serious, for letters have been sent to the office for redirection, and it has been impossible to carry out our responsibility in this direction. We earnestly ask all members to give this matter their attention and to see to it that, in changing a permanent address, notice is sent immediately to Headquarters.

MODERN NURSING IN GREECE.

We received a very interesting communication from Miss E. Willins, who is attached to the American Women's Hospitals in Athens, in which she gives us information on conditions of nursing in that city. It is indicated that, although not a belligerent country, Greece, too, has its difficulties, in connection with nursing, owing to the European situation. Very fascinating are some small illustrations sent us of a pageant of scenes in the History of Nursing as staged by students who are in training as nurses. There are pictures showing that in very ancient days it was the duty of slaves to care for the sick and also incantations were part of the means used to bring the patients back to health; demonology is shown to have played its part in diagnosis and treatment and the share which religion took in treatment is emphasised. Remembering Æsculapius and the healing temples at Epidaurus and then later the teaching of Hippocrates, it must have been an inspiring piece of work to stage a nursing pageant in Greece. There comes the triumphant figure of Florence Nightingale, of course, and by pageantry it is shown how her lamp is carried into the homes of the poor by the

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