

of 'Bunty' or 'The Lesser Wee Free.' "She was just ten months when these were taken. I am out here"—Gold Coast—"with my husband and have left Baby with my husband's aunt at Iford—Baby is always pleased to see visitors. At present"—November, 1927—"I am acting M.O.H. and School Doctor here (Tamale, N.T.s) and have quite a hectic time. This week we are running a Health Week, a Baby Show and all the other things appertaining thereto, so I am exceedingly busy. Kindest regards to all the Royaumontites."

We received New Year's greetings from **Dr. Manoël** in Roumania—but no news.

Miss Magazin (Morgan) went to S. Africa to repeat her artistic successes of a few years back, and is doing well. She hopes to return via the Seychelles and Japan—among other places.

Martin, members will be sorry to hear, has been ill and has lost her Mother. She says she has been getting a book published—but withholds further details. We all missed her at the Dinner and hope she will turn up next time to exchange reminiscences with other 'Office' people of different date. And will she please tell us about her book?

May writes last October: "I am still working at wool embroideries and I had a stall at the Decorative Arts Exhibition at the Central Hall, Westminster, in May last, where I sold my goods very well and am still busy with orders taken then."

Peter (Madame Campora) writes, last November: "I am always delighted to have the *News-Letter*, and promptly read it from cover to cover. If, like so many others, I annoy your editorial feelings by giving no sign of life, it's because I am always awfully busy, and although my life is extremely interesting to myself, it isn't often that anything happens that seems worthy the attention of other Royaumontites. This time, however, I am answering your call for snaps of Royaumont Cubs—here are three"—and she sends some delightful ones of Elizabeth Rose, aged 6½, of Yolande, and of Juliette Lucienne ('Judy'), aged 2½, "taken in Alsace, in the beautiful Thann valley, where we had a glorious two months holiday. I do wish I could turn up at the dinners—but I fear there isn't much chance of ever being in England at that time of year. Greet everyone for me—I always mean to send a telegram to the Dinner and always forget at the proper moment! Au revoir, and thank all of you awfully for all the trouble you take to keep us scattered people up in the news."

It was very jolly to welcome **Prance** home at the Dinner—looking wonderfully well.

Rawstorne (Mrs. Bruce), whose home address is in Eife, is one of our new recruits who joined as the result of Miss Ivens' generous help in making it financially possible to send our last number to all old Royaumontites. She was unable to come south for the Dinner but hopes to be able to come another time.

Susan Richmond (Mrs. Hayden), who has settled down at Melton Mowbray, is now in a position to send us a photograph of a Royaumont Cub. She was unable to come to the Dinner: "I have to come up to Town a week later, and I've just been up for a sister's wedding, and I simply can't have another outburst! I would have loved to come. You know I never got an invitation to last (1926) Dinner at all, and surely someone must have known I was at the Haymarket! I would have come to the beginning of the dinner and probably got back for the tail end of things." There

is a moral to this tale—but we will not press it, merely referring to p. 1—2.

Rolt has started a hat-shop—'Kay's' in the High Street at Berkhamsted—and would love to see any old Royaumontite who may find herself in that neighbourhood.

Simms wrote, last September: "I have been in Trinidad since May, trying to look after two small children. It's really a beautiful island, and the vegetation is wonderful. Where we live (Apex Oilfields, Fyzabad) it's mostly lush, which is a good thing as it hides most of the ugly oilfield erections. I am so sorry that I shall not be able to come to the Dinner this year."

Salway (Mrs. MacIntosh) came home on the same boat with Inglis' brother, but has now returned to India.

The **Spécialiste** has sent an urgent request to **Merrylees** (who is still working hard as a private masseuse) that any old Royaumontite who can possibly manage it should go over to Boulogne for the Whitsuntide holiday as he is to be there "à la Pentecôte" (which falls on May 27th) in connection with some special fête. We have no further details, but his address is M. Emile Rouilly, 61 Rue des Aydes, Orléans-les Aydes, Loiret. We believe there are day-trips to Boulogne at holiday seasons. Merrylees herself is to be in France, but inland, at the time.

Stewart is another new recruit, last autumn, to the Association. She is now engaged in rabbit-farming.

Summerhayes, who has taken her tropical medicine diploma, and is now M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and D.P.M.H., went out to the Gold Coast in February to take charge of a new Maternity Hospital and Training School for African midwives, under the Colonial Office, at Accra. It turns out that she is only a few miles from her married sister, though the Colonial Office knew nothing of that when they appointed her. Summerhayes and the **Wee Free** will have to establish a West African branch of the Association! **Little Johnnie** (Mrs. Lyon) is not so very, very far off—somewhere in Nigeria.

Thorne (Mrs. Newton), who has two children, is going round the world to meet her husband, after a time at home.

Tollit, our Hon. Treasurer, is home again, looking very well after her trip to South Africa. She made her headquarters a Y.W.C.A. Hostel at Muizenburg, 16 miles from Capetown, where a friend is Warden. Besides motoring all round Capetown, she visited Joburg, Pretoria, Maritzburg, Ladysmith, Durban, the Natal National Park, and Bloemfontein. Here she met **Dr. Edwards**, now Mrs. Hill, who does a great deal of medical maternity and infant welfare work. (She also met 'Beauty,' Dr. Edwards' bulldog who, hidden in the back seat, emerges to guard the car and its contents from pilferers, when his mistress is paying visits, in the approved fashion of one of the Royaumont Garage pack.) Tollit visited a great many native settlements, missions, monasteries, schools, and all the Cape Colony Y.W. Hostels, and so was able to get a very good idea of the social and mission work being done among women in South Africa. She found it all most interesting, and describes the scenery through which she travelled on her train journeys as being most wonderful. She climbed Table Mountain and enjoyed the gorgeous view from the top, where is the memorial to the climbers killed in the war, on the highest rock. She says the railway up Table Mountain is nearly finished, so very soon it will be possible to go by rail. The Committee is exceedingly glad to have the Treasurer back again.

Royaumont News-Letter



Vol. I.

APRIL, 1928

No. 10

Published by the Royaumont and Villers Cotterets Association of the Scottish Women's Hospitals,
70 Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.
Hon. Editor: V. C. C. COLLUM, 4 Milton Chambers, 128 Cheyne Walk, S.W. 10. (Tel. Ken. 5716.)

Object of the Association: To maintain and strengthen our wartime comradeship

Subscription: Half-a-crown per annum, due October 1st, for following year.

President: Miss Frances Ivens, M.S. (Lond.).

Vice-Presidents: Miss Ruth Nicholson, M.S., Miss Elizabeth Courtauld, M.D.

Chairman: Miss Elizabeth Courtauld, M.D.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Sanderson.

Hon. Treasurer: F. M. Tollit.

Subscribing Members can have letters addressed to them c/o the Association. They can also consult the Association Address-Book, kept at **70 Victoria Street**, on production of their visiting card.

Editorial

Members, the editor hopes, will forgive us for being so late with this number when it is explained that Milton Chambers was one of the dozen or so riverside buildings in Chelsea into whose lower storeys the Thames suddenly overflowed in the Great Flood of January 7th—or to be more exact, in the small hours of the following morning. Your editor happened to be burning the midnight oil when the sinister noise of a waterfall just outside made her rush to the window—to see Cheyne Walk submerged and the Thames pouring over the area and creeping up the front-door steps. The three lower flats were completely drowned out, the occupants, in their night-clothes, having to wade knee-deep to safety, so swiftly did the water rise, although it was then only seeping in underneath the closed area door. Afterwards it was a case of all hands to the rescue, for practically everything belonging to the elderly caretakers, to the occupant of the flat your editor once lived in, and to the third flat (in which Merrylees formerly had a room) belonging to the Secretary of the N.U.W.S.S. War Hospital Unit for Russia—in which your editor has a photographic-cum-store room—was ruined. Although the borough council

had the floors taken up and the walls cut away to their brick cores and then artificially dried, the occupants were only able to return late in March. It was during salvage operations when the waters had gone down that your editor was foolish enough to have a fall and land on her head on a bar of iron. Though her skull is thick, her wits suffered, and all her work, professional and voluntary, has been much delayed.

Subsequently we have been waiting for our President's promised Letter, which she was unable to send earlier owing to a bad eye. As she is now in Italy and it has not come, we must assume that it has got lost in the post. We do not know her address.

News-Letter Expenses and Unpaid Subscriptions

Members are constantly telling us that they really appreciate the News-Letter. Some are good enough to send donations to help in producing it. Our last issue, they know, was a special one, and was sent to all old Royaumontites for whom we had addresses, thanks to the generosity of Miss Loudon, President of the Scottish Group, in paying for the illustration of the Scottish War Memorial, and to that of our President in paying the cost of printing and posting

the extra copies. But perhaps members do not realize that even without these extra expenses the cost of producing an 8-page or double News-Letter is roughly £20 without counting postage to our 171 members. A simple calculation will show that 171 half-crowns will produce only an income of £20 a year. And when members are reminded that, seven months after the 1927-8 subscriptions are due, there are still 100 out of the 171 subscriptions unpaid (there are half-a-dozen outstanding from the year before!), they will recognize two things. First, that the 100 who do not pay up are letting the 70 who do pay up bear the whole cost—very much more than half-a-crown per head—of the Association benefits which they continue to accept, and, we trust, to enjoy; and secondly that the Association cannot go on like this. It is heading straight for bankruptcy. It is true that our 1926-7 balance-sheet shows over £40 in hand. But members must realize that this balance is partly due to subscriptions paid for five years in advance, and very largely to the generous donations of those who have sent money to help the Association publish a big News-Letter. If these generous ones observe that more than 50% of the members forget to pay their subscriptions until years after they are due—and some of them not at all—these few public benefactors will be tempted to reduce their own payments to the minimum of half-a-crown. So, may we plead once more with members to pull their weight and make the officers who give their time to the Association and the News-Letter feel that Royaumont is still solidly behind them, and not sitting, like a half-fledged young cuckoo on a hedge-sparrow's devastated nest, beak wide open, waiting to be fed by the tireless efforts of a smaller bird.

Emergency Loan Fund

Those who have answered the editor's call and subscribed to this Fund will feel thankful that they did so when we tell them that one of those swift and sudden emergencies which we feared might any day descend, like the sword of Damocles, on some underserving head, has actually come upon an old Royaumontite in a most unlooked-for quarter, and that the Fund was able promptly to supply a small loan which saved the immediate situation and enabled the old Royaumontite to obtain suitable employment. It is lucky for us, as old Royaumontites, that, in this 10th anniversary of the Armistice, we had such a Fund, for, if anything, the bond of our wartime comradeship grows stronger with the years, and, indeed, has a subtle force that is more compelling than the oath that binds the members of a secret brotherhood to come to one another's assistance in distress. We should have keenly felt the shame of it if, knowing that an old Royaumontite was in unexpected trouble through no fault of her own, we, owing to mere thoughtlessness, had not had a means ready by which we could be of service without in any way making our comrade feel that she was in any

one's debt. We fear that such emergencies may have arisen in the past and that we were both ignorant of them and unable to help. The Fund stood at £113 at the close of our financial year on 30th September. We should like to see it rise to £500. As the years go on and heads turn grey, the calls on it are likely to be heavier and more frequent.

The Royaumont Bed

Although the formal fund, subscribed for entirely by old Royaumontites, to name this bed at the Liverpool Maternity Hospital was closed when Miss Loudon, its Hon. Secretary, was able to hand Miss Ivens £500, we cannot over-emphasize the fact that the cost of maintaining that bed in perpetuity will not be covered until the original £500 becomes £1,000. The Association voted ten guineas towards it at the Annual Meeting, which was presented to Miss Ivens at the Dinner. Additional sums from individual members can be sent at any time to our President, who, we may remind members, has been most active in helping to get the Hospital started, and in raising funds for the completion of the building. She is second in seniority of the six Liverpool Honorary Obstetricians who, each with an Hon. Assistant, make themselves responsible for its service by rota, her Assistant being our Vice-President and Dinner Secretary, Miss Nicholson. Although we would not wish to deflect subscriptions from the Maternity Unit at the Royal Free, whose beds are named in memory of the S.W.H., we wish it to be clearly understood that this Maternity and Teaching Unit, under Professor Louise MacIlroy, has a powerful organization of well-known members of London Society ("The Scottish Women's Hospitals" Association of the Royal Free Hospital) with an office and an Honorary and a paid secretary, which exists to collect £1,000 every year for it by appeals to the general public, by the organization of an annual public dance, and by participation in charity ballots (with which, unfortunately, the name of the Scottish Women's Hospitals is mistakenly associated); whereas the Royaumont Memorial Bed at the Liverpool Maternity Hospital is being subscribed for entirely by Royaumont people as a mark of Royaumont's affection and loyalty towards its Médecin-Chef, Miss Ivens.

The Royaumont Cubs

Very soon old Royaumontites will be outnumbered by the second generation, whom someone has christened the Royaumont Cubs. Somebody has also suggested a fine, payable to the Association, for each Cub brought into the world; but let us put it a little less infelicitously, and suggest that members make a free-will offering to the Emergency Fund or the Royaumont Bed as an annual thank-offering on their youngsters' birthdays. The idea of an Album, to pass round at the Dinner, is catching on. Already the editor has either portraits or delightful snapshots of the following:—Elizabeth, Yolande

and Juliette Campora; Thomas Fairfax Scott; Norma Rosemary Bushby; three young Cadmans; Elizabeth Marjorie Buchanan Clements; John Stewart Henry; and seven amusing studies of 'Bunty' Hendrie, *alias* the Wee-er Free. These, of course, though a host in themselves, will not nearly fill an Album, and are hardly representative, as numbers go, of Royaumont's young family. So may we appeal to all Royaumont *mères de famille* who have not already done so to send us pictures of their own Cubs, with name and age clearly written on the back, before the publication of the October News-Letter?

Royaumont Records

We hope to have something definite to report, on the subject of the suggested record of the war-work of Royaumont and V.C., in our next number. Meanwhile, in anticipation of a possible call for the gift or loan of exhibits, will members who possess any really interesting relics that would be suitable as permanent illustrations, in an historical medical museum's "War Hospital" section, of the history of our Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, please be kind enough to communicate with the Secretary of the Museum Exhibits Sub-Committee, viz., your editor.

Another kind of private record or souvenir has been suggested. This would take the form of a subscription "Royaumont Book." The editor therefore asks members to let her know whether, supposing she were to take in hand the compilation and printing of such a book, they would subscribe for a copy to cost not more than two guineas? We are so few that we could hardly hope to dispose of more than 200 copies, and the production would therefore be proportionately costly; so, unless the entire edition were subscribed for in advance, we could only embark on it if we had guarantors who would cover the outlay. The copies would be numbered and signed, well bound in cloth, and printed on good paper in a clear and good-looking type—a library or collector's edition, in short. The contributors would be Royaumontites—by invitation—and the subject would be Royaumont. There might possibly be illustrations. The original signed MSS. and documents would be hand-bound, and drawn for, the proceeds from the draw going to the Emergency Fund.

Finally, seeing that this is now No. 10 of the News-Letters, and that the next will complete our first five-year volume (No. 1, in 1923, being an extra or preliminary issue), would members care to buy spring-back self-binders in cloth with the name of the journal in gold lettering, to preserve their sets? If we had as many as one dozen orders we could supply them for 3s. each. The Hon. Secretary can still supply back-numbers at 6d. each, post free.

Ninth Annual Dinner

This was held at the Belgravia Hotel, Grosvenor Gardens, on Tuesday, December 6th, 1927. There were 65 Royaumont people present including as our Guest of Honour Monsieur Delacoste. The date was altered again this year to make the dinner fit in with the Royal Free Hospital ceremony. It is hoped that we shall be able to have it on Saturdays in the future as some of the members can only leave their work at week-ends. I sent postcards to every individual who was at Royaumont, which probably accounts for the increase in the number present. This, too, shall be done in future. It is worth the extra trouble and expense as either the News-Letter is not read, or memories need two reminders, and it also catches the non-members of the Association and in some cases results in their conversion to the fold.

The following were present:—Mrs. Savill, Miss Ross, Chapman, Miss Loudon, Dr. Courtauld, Sister Cocking, France, Churchill, Merry^{les} Cranage, Smieton, Dr. Estcourt Oswald, Wilson Webster, Banks, Bruce, Whitehorn, Middleton Collum, Ramsay, Dr. Martland, Mrs. Carter Butler, Mackay, Berry, Leng, Forrest, Buckley Oliver, Newton, Dr. Newton-Davis, Mrs. Robinson Sister Bedwell, Miss Hamilton, Paley, Howard Smith, Large, Rolt, Minchin, Inglis, Mrs. Alison Miss Gray, Summerhayes, Young, MacGregor, Sister Boulton, Tatham, Stables, Waddell, Dart, Mrs. Higgins, Warner, Dr. Dobbin, Sister Whitworth, Reeve, Sister Rose-Morris, Main, Sister Adam, Little Anderson (Dispensary), Thorne, Gill, and Big Murray.

Miss Ivens received, and the room was crowded and full of noise when Monsieur Delacoste was ushered in by the French-Swiss Manager, who, I think, was full of sympathy for our foreign guest. It was wasted, however, as Monsieur Delacoste was perfectly at ease and beamed with delight and greeted his old friends with great affection. Later in the evening when he responded to Miss Hamilton's witty toast he showed us again that neither he, the Curé, nor the people of Asnières and Viarmes had forgotten the "Opéra Comique"—in other words the Dames de Royaumont. Miss Ivens read us a charming letter from the Curé which is being printed in this number. Big Inglis then proposed Miss Ivens' health in an excellent speech during which she recalled some of the ordinary and extraordinary events of the War. Ramsay led us in French songs and Howard Smith was at the piano. Miss Kemp and Arthur were both prevented from coming at the last moment due to family illness, Carter due to personal illness (influenza), and Dr. Lorimer Hawthorne did not appear. For the first time on record Tollit was not with us. You will probably read in another part of the News-Letter of her experiences in South Africa and her meeting with Dr. Edwards.

By some wonderful stroke of luck the credit and debit side of last year's dinner account balanced

SHEET VALUE

each other to a halfpenny. This year's dinner we hope will be held on Saturday, 1st December.

RUTH NICHOLSON,
45 Rodney St., Liverpool. *Dinner Secretary.*
March 23rd, 1928.

M. Le Curé's Telegram and Letter

Received 5.35 p.m. Dec. 1, 1927.

"Miss Iwins Miss Nicholson Doctresses Hopital Liverpool Angleterre: Le 4 Décembre de coeur avec toutes les Dames de Royaumont: Bonne salutation de leur ancien aumonier, Roussel Cure Asnières-sur-Oise" (*sic*).

Asnières-s/-Oise (S. & O.), le 27/11/1927.

Chère et bonne Miss Iwens,

Que je suis heureux de vous envoyer un mot tout aimable, tout cordial à l'occasion de votre réunion des Dames de Royaumont! Qu'il m'est agréable de confier ma missive à quelqu'un qui a toute mon estime et pour lequel j'ai une bonne et bien véritable affection.

On me parle souvent de vous. Je répète ici ce que très-souvent on me dit. "Oh! ces dames de Royaumont comme elles ont fait du bien! Jamais on ne pourra les oublier!" C'est bien ma pensée à moi aussi! Comment, du reste, le Curé d'Asnières pourrait-il oublier les chères et si dignes infirmières de Royaumont avec qui, pendant quatre années il a travaillé! Oh! non, il ne les oublie pas! Il ne les oubliera jamais! A toutes j'envoie une salutation toute franche, toute cordiale.

Chère Miss Iwens, de ma part dites-le leur: Ensemble disons, répétons: Vive Royaumont! Vive les infirmières de Royaumont! Vive l'aumônier de Royaumont!

Et puis j'ajoute: Vive le cher Monsieur Delacoste, véritable ami de Royaumont de toujours!

Agréez, je vous en prie, chère et bonne Miss Iwens, Madame la Colonelle,

avec mes très respectueuses salutations, l'assurance de mon bon et bien cordial souvenir en N.S.

P. ROUSSELLE

pr.

curé d'Asnières-sur-Oise et de Royaumont
ex-aumônier de l'hôpital 301 de Royaumont.

P.S.—J'aurais bien aimé à aller vous rendre visite en Angleterre. Mes pauvres jambes sont usées; je ne le puis véritablement pas.

[En effet—"VIVE L'AUMONIER DE ROYAUMONT!"]

The Speeches of the Evening

Miss Cicely Hamilton's

Madame la Présidente—mes camarades de Royaumont—et Monsieur Delacoste! Surtout Monsieur Delacoste!

Je suis chargée, Monsieur, par mes camarades d'autrefois, de vous remercier pour l'honneur que vous nous faites ce soir. Inutile de vous dire que vous êtes le bienvenu à notre réunion; puisque vous avez des yeux et des oreilles, vous l'aurez déjà remarqué. Le poète nous assure que "tout passe, tout casse, tout lasse"—mais, pour ma part, je crois qu'il y ait des exceptions à ce destin funeste. Il y a des souffrances communes, des preuves de bienveillance et d'amitié dont les souvenirs ne passent pas facilement. Malgré les journalistes et les hommes de politique, ces souvenirs-là ne se laissent pas casser; ils persistent!

C'est vrai, Monsieur, que le ci-devant personnel de Royaumont qui vous entoure a changé, beaucoup changé, depuis les jours de guerre. Nos uniformes—avec quelques exceptions—sont avec les neiges d'antan; nos chevelures—avec quelques exceptions—même chose! Mais les sentiments du personnel de Royaumont envers ses camarades français, ils n'ont pas changé avec ses habits, ils n'ont pas disparu avec ses cheveux. Au contraire! tout au contraire! Ils existent toujours, ces sentiments, et sans aucun signe de faiblesse.

C'est probable, Monsieur, que vous ignorez les noms de la majorité du personnel de notre hôpital—mais qu'importe! Quand vous rencontrerez une infirmière—une 'orderly'—une doctresse—autrefois de Royaumont, vous n'aurez qu'à vous dire: Voilà une Anglaise, une Écossaise qui, aux heures douloureuses de la guerre s'estimait heureuse—s'estimait honorée—d'être au service de ma patrie. Et vous pouvez y ajouter: Voilà aussi une Anglaise, une Écossaise qui n'a pas oublié mes services à l'hôpital de Royaumont; et qui me souhaite tout le bonheur que mérite un bon Français.

M. Delacoste's Response

Madame la Colonelle, Mesdames:

C'est un homme très heureux qui se lève pour vous saluer ce soir—heureux de vous retrouver—et vraiment très satisfait de pouvoir enfin prendre part au dîner, qui, chaque année, évoque le souvenir et l'esprit de l'Hôpital de Royaumont.

A mon grand regret, il ne m'avait pas été possible de venir parmi vous dans vos précédentes réunions pour vous apporter le témoignage de ma grande sympathie et de ma profonde admiration. Comme vous le savez, 'business is business' et, jusqu'à présent mon temps était pris par un travail absorbant. Cette année je suis devenu plus libre, et j'ai répondu avec plaisir à la très cordiale invitation de votre très aimable secrétaire.

Ce soir donc, à Londres, il m'est très agréable de remplir la mission que j'ai reçue, qui est celle de vous apporter de vive voix les chaleureux remerciements et l'expression des sentiments de profonde gratitude des si nombreux habitants d'Asnières-s/-Oise, Viarmes, Belloy, Luzarches et des Communes environnantes, que vous avez accueillis

à l'Hôpital de Royaumont, dont vous avez soigné les maladies, pansé les plaies, opéré et guéri les infirmités.

Ceux-là se souviendront toujours. Ils me l'ont dit—et m'ont chargé de vous le dire.

Je ne parlerai pas de vos travaux pour les blessés pendant la terrible guerre—*Dieu seul sait tout ce que vous avez fait*. Nous savons seulement—de la bonté, de cette bonté maternelle qui faisait l'étonnement et le ravissement des pauvres blessés—que vous avez dépensé aussi du *courage*—dans des proportions *surhumaines*.

Je ne suis pas qualifié pour vous en remercier. Je ne suis qu'un homme dans la rue comme vous dites. Mais veuillez me croire quand je vous dis que tous ceux, militaires et civils, qui vous ont connus, qui ont été témoins de votre énergie et de votre *endurance*, ont pour "les Dames Anglaises"—tel est votre nom populaire—*le plus grand respect*.

Je lève mon verre en l'honneur de Madame la Colonelle, Miss Iwens, si haut placée dans nos coeurs, en l'honneur de l'État Major des Doctresses—en l'honneur des Sisters et des Misses des Scottish Women's Hospitals, No. 30 et 301 à Royaumont et à Villers Cotterets.

Honneur et Gloire au grand pays que j'admire qui produit de tels coeurs. Vive le Royaume Uni de Grand-Bretagne!

The Aftermath

In sending the editor a copy of his speech, M. Delacoste wrote, a few days before Christmas: "La couronne est arrivée le 29 Novembre. Elle a été placée aussitôt par M. le Curé au pied du Monument.

J'ai adressé à Miss Merrylees une lettre pour la remercier—ainsi que vous et Miss Inglis et Miss Middleton, de vos bons offices à mon égard. Je lui faisais part de mes impressions incoubliables. Le récit que je fais ici de mon voyage fait sensation. Et quand je termine par la lecture du toast de Miss Hamilton les coeurs sont touchés et les yeux s'illuminent.

Ah!—si les hommes de politique et de journalisme pensaient et écrivaient comme Miss Hamilton!

Puisque vous le desirez, je vous adresse une copie de mon toast. Il est loin de valoir au point de vue littéraire le toast de Miss Hamilton—mais il est l'expression des sentiments que nous avons gardés dans nos villages pour *l'heroique phalange de Royaumont et de Villers-Cotterets*.

J'ai fait part de vos bons souhaits de Noël à M. le Curé. Il vous remercie et vous envoie également ses bons voeux. Je fais de même—et vous prie de me croire, Yours truly

G. DELACOSTE."

What went Before

Monsieur Delacoste arrived unexpectedly in London a week before the Dinner. Merrylees just had

time to summon two or three of us to meet him for tea at her flat, to which he repaired straightway on arrival at Victoria—and chafed her unmercifully for having made him get out of the bus about a dozen turnings too soon so that he had to walk for nearly a mile down the King's Road before "Tadema Road" appeared. It was some compensation, however, to see in various toyshops and tobacconists' windows a good display of the "Ballons et Jouets Delacoste"!

A few days later those of us in London gave a little dinner in honour of M. Delacoste on our own at an Italian restaurant in Soho, where we had a private room and a table gaily decorated with flowers. Then we took him to see the film "Chang." Afterwards he took us—first inquiring if it was 'convenable'—to a Lyons' Corner House where he not only ordered the refreshment in excellent English but showed us a copy of his speech—in English. He never told us why it was that he changed his mind and gave it in French after all, but we appreciated both the original—and the subsequent—compliment.

Then he went to Liverpool to spend a short week-end with Miss Iwens, and there was another intimate little dinner at her house. Miller, who was unable to get free for the dinner this year, made up for it by taking our Guest of Honour for the evening to Liverpool's most *chic* dancing café, and there they exchanged Royaumont reminiscences—it is rumoured—to a very late hour to the accompaniment of a suitable quantity of stimulating refreshment. Indeed the only blot on our special Reunion this year was the unavoidable absence of Miller and Miss Magazin.

Some Other Messages and Letters

From Montreal: "Greetings to you all from three Royaumontites here, Henry Clarke Sister Thompson" Dec. 6th.

From Asnières-sur-Oise: "Madame la doctresse, je profite de l'inépuisable obligeance de Monsieur Delacoste pour vous faire parvenir cette lettre, dans laquelle je vous prie d'accepter avec mon respectueux souvenir mes très sincères remerciements, puisque grâce à votre adroite intervention j'ai été radicalement guérie. Aussi croyez Madame la doctresse en l'infinie reconnaissance et entière gratitude de votre bien dévouée

O. MATHIS."

Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Association

This was held at 70 Victoria Street, S.W.1, on December 6th, 11 a.m. Present were Miss Courtauld, Miss Loudon, Miss Gray, Sister Whitworth (Mrs. Cadman), Banks (Mrs. Simmonds), Cranage, Ramsay Smith, Inglis, Wilson, Mackay, Collum, and the Hon. Secretary—Smieton (Mrs. Sanderson).

In the absence of Dr. Estcourt Oswald, Ramsay took the chair. After the Minutes of the last meeting had been read and signed as correct the balance-sheet was presented by Smieton, Acting Hon. Treasurer in the absence abroad of Tollit, the Hon. Treasurer, and passed.

The other business transacted was as follows:—

(a) The passing of a resolution proposed by the Hon Editor and seconded by the Hon. Secretary that the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum should be approached during the coming year with a view of ascertaining if a record and exhibits illustrating the war-work in France of the Royaumont and V.C. Unit of the S.W.H. would be acceptable for their war-hospitals section; and the appointment (subject to the willingness to serve of those not present) of a sub-committee to go further into the matter should the reply be favourable. The names of those to be invited to serve on the sub-committee are: Miss Ivens, our late Médecin-Chef and President of the Association; Mrs. MacLaren, the S.W.H. historian and sister of Dr. Elsie Inglis; our Hon. Secretary; and E. Inglis; with Miss Loudon and Ramsay Smith as correspondents in Scotland, and Collum as Secretary.

(b) The voting, on the motion of the Hon. Secretary, of a donation of ten guineas from the Association's balance towards the upkeep of the Royaumont Bed at the Liverpool Maternity Hospital, which, although it has been "named" by the Association's gift to Miss Ivens of £500, will not actually be endowed in perpetuity unless another £500 be added.

(c) The adoption of a resolution asking our President informally to express, in the name of the Association, the loyal and friendly sentiments of members towards France and the French people when, during the afternoon, she would be meeting the French Ambassador on the platform on the occasion of the Presentation by the "Scottish Women's Hospitals" Association of the Royal Free Hospital, of a bed to the Maternity Unit at the Royal Free, to be named after the Royaumont Unit in memory of its work.

(d) The re-election, en bloc, of the existing committee (with the exception of Cranage, resigned on taking up work elsewhere), on the motion of Miss Loudon, seconded by Miss Courtauld.

(e) The election of Miss Courtauld, Vice-President, as Chairman of the Association in room of Dr. Estcourt Oswald, in order that members might have the advantage, at Annual General Meetings, of having a chairman who could also be present at ordinary committee meetings and so keep more closely in personal touch with the administrative work of the Association than our first Chairman has been able to do. (Dr. Estcourt Oswald, who lives at Colchester and is engaged in a busy practice, had only been able to come to London to attend two Committee meetings—on 30th May, 1924, and on 11th November, 1925—since the Association was formally organized in 1923. She had, however, been present at three out of five Annual General Meetings.)

(f) On the Hon. Secretary informing the meeting that Miss Emily Ford, Hon. Secretary of The Women's Institute (which has kindly given us a house room and an address ever since the Association was formally organized, and on extremely generous terms), had broken the news that The Institute was closing down, but that she herself was carrying on the part of its work which is concerned with the training of secretaries, at the same address, and that she would be pleased to give us hospitality on the same reduced terms, the Meeting requested Mrs. Sanderson to send Miss Ford a letter of thanks and to say that the Association accepted her kind offer with gratitude.

The Meeting was then closed.

Presentation of a Royaumont Bed to the Royal Free

This ceremony, for which our own Dinner was postponed, duly took place at the Royal Free Hospital on the afternoon of 6th December, necessitating our holding our Annual Meeting in the morning and giving up our usual Sunday afternoon Tea-party, though Inglis did her best to make up for this by inviting members to her flat on the evening following the Dinner—unfortunately, however, few but Londoners being able to turn up.

H.E. the French Ambassador made the actual presentation of the name-plate, on behalf of the "Sc. Wm.'s Hosp. Ass." of the Royal Free

(Continued on page 7.)

ROYAUMONT ASSOCIATION BALANCE SHEET, 21st NOVEMBER, 1927.

Income.		Expenditure.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance brought forward	55 15 11	Rent of Office	5 5 0
Subscriptions	24 14 8	Printing and postage of two News Letters and List of Members	23 1 0
Emergency Loan Fund	£113 1s. 6d.	Stamps	1 3 2
New Members	5	Stationery	1 4 6
Subscriptions due 1927	10	Poppy Wreath	1 1 0
" " " 1928	117	Balance in hand	48 15 11
Total Number of Members	171		
	£80 10 7		£80 10 7

Hospital. There were a number of other and lengthy speeches. The large Royaumont contingent, which was carefully marshalled by Royaumont Association unofficial stewards so as to make a solid block of the audience, unmistakably indicated that Miss Ivens' speech was what they wanted most to hear, for the usual polite applause became thunderous when Royaumont's Médecin-Chef rose to tell the meeting something about the 'Royaumont' which the new Bed was to commemorate. This heartened our President and she began confidently. Then—well, one can only suppose la Colonelle felt rather as though she were telling a good story in an empty padded cell. In that curious manner, familiar to those who have to speak across the footlights, Royaumont realized that its Chief was talking into cotton-wool. It did its best to convey to the speaker that there was one responsive spot in that hall; yet, despite the Association's gratitude that the name of 'Royaumont' had also been honoured by being added to the list of S.W.H. Beds in the splendid Maternity Unit at Miss Ivens' old Medical School, there was a genuine feeling of relief when the meeting came to an end, and the Royal Free's hospitality having been partaken of, we could rush away to get dressed for the Reception by our President preliminary to our own Reunion Dinner. As those who read Miss Nicholson's report will gather, the atmosphere there was electrical. Miss Ivens, when she rose to respond to Inglis' unconventional speech, confessed with what very different feelings she could rise to speak to 'Royaumont' as compared with the effort to 'get across the footlights' that same afternoon.

Why was this? Is it not because there really is an invisible kinship between those who have passed through the experiences of the War in the same area and in similar circumstances? That bond exists between Royaumont and the villagers of Asnières and Viarmes, for instance. It is wanting in a polite audience in London. And, between those who worked together at Royaumont?—well, there are not words to describe its strength. There is a moral. If we want some day to create a permanent living Memorial of Royaumont where it will really kindle a lasting response, we must create it there where we worked.

Monthly Royaumont Notices in British Legion Journal

The Committee has sanctioned the expenditure of 12s. for which sum the *British Legion Journal* will print a monthly notice in its "Old Comrades' Associations" page for one year, and send a voucher copy to the Secretary of the subscribing Association. Members should therefore not forget to look at that notice every month in future, as it will provide a useful means of circularizing our members as to reunions, etc. We hope there are no old Royaumontites, whether active members of a British

Legion branch or not, who do not help the ex-service men and women to the extent of 3d. a month for this Journal. A poppy bought once a year from Lord Haig's Fund helps the Legion's relief work. But it is the organization itself that fights the battles of the ex-service men in the matter of pensions, preferential employment, and so forth, and the Journal, like our own, is an important constituent in the glue that sticks that organization together.

Scottish Reunion

A Re-union will be held at Miss Winstanley's, Fernbrae, Perth Road, Dundee, on Saturday, May 26th. Lunch at 1.30 p.m. As Miss Ivens is to be present, it is hoped that a large number will be able to accept.

Tickets, 3s. 6d. each, may be had on application (before May 14th if possible) to the Hon. Secretary of the Scottish Group of the Association—Miss Gray, 11 Traquair-Park-West, Corstorphine, Midlothian.

Royaumont Wreath

Our wreath this year was again a chaplet of laurels, with a great spray of Legion Poppies, and Thistles, made by a florist who gives her services every year, round about Poppy Day, to the Chelsea Branch of the British Legion—to which so many old Royaumontites belong. It was sent by post to M. Delacoste, and placed at the foot of the Royaumont Memorial by the Curé, Monsieur l'Abbé Rousselle, our devoted Aumônier, on St. Andrew's Day, the 13th anniversary of the arrival of our Unit at Royaumont only three months after the stopping at this spot of the German Advance towards Paris in 1914. The inscription was: "Aux Morts: Les Dames Écossaises de Royaumont ne vous oublient pas," with the name of our Association, its address, and the date.

Obituary

Members will be very sorry to hear that G. Puckle, who was a chauffeur at Royaumont from November, 1918, up to the demobilization of the hospital in January, 1919, died in the spring of last year, though we only received the news from Miss Nicholson after our last issue was published. She had been training as a nurse at St. Thomas's and had passed her final examinations when lung trouble developed. Members will wish us to express their sympathy with her family.

New Addresses and New Members

Welcome to the new members whose names are starred. We owe some of them to our President's sporting action

in sending the last News-Letter to all old Royaumontites whose addresses (dating from 1918) still find them.

M. A. Stewart*, At Sidney House, Shrewsbury (Nov. 1927).

C. M. Findlay (Mrs. J. M. Mitchell)*, Toronto House, 384 High St., West Bromwich (Nov. 1927).

Sister Mabel E. Jeffery*, 57 Redcar Rd., Sheffield (Nov. 1927).

Sister (Mrs.) Harkness Beckton*, 22 Western Parade, Southsea (Nov. 1927).

Sister Bedwell*, Cropton Pickering, Yorks. (Nov. 1927).

Hon. Jennet Rawstone (Mrs. Bruce)*, Camsie House, Charlestown, Fife (Jan. 1928).

Dr. M. Newton Davis*, 5 Smith St., Chelsea, S.W.3 (Jan. 1928).

N. Stables*, 24 Addison Gardens, W.14 (Jan. 1928).

Oliver*, The Spinney, Godalming, Surrey (Jan. 1928).

Alison Anderson (Mrs. Blood), The Residency, Trincomalee, Ceylon.

A. L. Anderson, c/o the above.

D. Allan (Mrs. Percival), Priors Lodge, Bream, Glos.

Dr. G. L. Buckley, 29 Poole Rd., Bournemouth.

Cannon (Mrs. Walford), 21 Ballygunge Park, Calcutta.

Miss Gray, 11 instead of 5 Traquair-Park-West, Corstorphine.

M. Main (Mrs. Breakey), Old Manor House, Norton, Nr. Letchworth, Herts.

Reeve (Mrs. Loach), 4 Lansdowne Rd., Bromley, Kent.

Richmond (Mrs. Haydon), 10 High St., Melton Mowbray.

Rolt, "Kay's," 148a High St., Berkhamsted.

A. O. Ross (Mrs. MacGregor), Flawford, Coddington, Newark-on-Trent.

F. B. Simms, Apex Oil Fields, Ltd., Faizabad, Trinidad, Br. W. Indies.

Dr. G. Summerhayes, Colonial Maternity Hospital, Accra, Gold Coast, W.A.

Torrance, 7 Abbey Rd., Eskbank, Nr. Edinburgh.

M. Waddell, Women's Guild of Empire, 7 Grosvenor Gdns., S.W.1.

The Secretary begs all Members to keep her informed of any change of address. Unless addresses are kept up to date the Association's Letter Forwarding Service becomes useless.

From Far and Near

Adrain (Mrs. MacLagan) promises Tollit "a snap of my two children for the Album of young Royaumontites"; the Editor would be very glad if she would kindly send it along. The Secretary would also be glad to have the address of **Hearne (Mrs. C. F. Naylor)** whom she says now lives in Winnipeg.

Ashton, members will be glad to hear, got comfortably over her serious operation last autumn, and had **Armstrong** with her in Edinburgh.

Barclay (Mrs. Golding), members will be sorry to hear, broke her leg in the wilds of Rhodesia, and, being far from a *Salle Radio* or a *Salle Billard* and a 'Thomas,' has some permanent shortening. We should like her to join the Association! Cannot someone persuade her?

Sister Beckton, writing to the Treasurer, says: "Please find enclosed my first 2s. 6d. subscription—this

is my first *News-Letter* and I was so delighted to hear of the old S.W.H. that I entirely forgot my tea . . ." Mrs. Beckton continues: "I took Jill to India at 9 months, breaking my journey at Malta, a dirty, dusty hole, and then on again to Karachi. I have since been to Germany. Jack was born in 1917. I took him to Spain, Canary Islands, Portugal, France, and home. Whereafter I went all round the small island and on to W. Africa . . . I shall ever remember the most sporting women I ever met in my life were at the S.W.H. at Royaumont. I should like to hear of little **Robinson** and **Sister Reed**. Tell any members coming this way (Southsea) to drop me a card; I should be delighted to see them."

Congratulations to the **Lapin** whose Jersey cow, Post-mistress, achieved a head-line all to herself in the *Times* as having given 2,001 gallons of milk in a year at the age of six, having had her first calf when a week under two years old, and four lactations in six years. To the uninitiated it should be explained that the pseudonym refers to a very welcome guest at Royaumont—**Mr. Grosvenor Berry**. So many Royaumontites are now farming that we make no apology for including Post-mistress's performance in this column.

Those who remember **Miss Kathleen Burke**, whose efforts in the U.S.A. and Canada did so much to supply the sinews of war for all the S.W.H. Units, and, in particular, bore fruit in "Canada" ward and the giant ambulance known as "The Menagerie," will be very sorry to hear that she has recently lost her husband. They had been living in the U.S.A. We believe she is shortly expected on a visit to London.

Burrard (Mrs. Dashwood) writes: "I am still a long way from well, but much better since my operation."

Cannon (Mrs. Walford) returned to India last autumn and is living in Calcutta. She wrote to Tollit enclosing a cheque to be handed to the Royal Free for its "Royaumont" maternity bed. Our own Royaumont Memorial, subscribed for entirely by Royaumontites, is the Royaumont Bed in the ward in which Miss Ivens and Miss Nicholson are especially interested, in the Maternity Hospital in Liverpool. So far it is only "named." We want another £500 before it is permanently endowed. The money for the Royal Free Maternity Units beds in memory of the Scottish Women's Hospitals is raised by public dances and public subscription.

Cardew was seen not very long ago by **Berry** at Boulogne (he is married and Mrs. Cardew was with him) on the way to Paris for a holiday. **Berry** unfortunately forgot to get his address so we are unable to send him a *News-Letter* and an invitation to join the Association.

Miss Courtauld writes: "I have had a most splendid trip about Syria and Palestine, and then back from Beyrout to Constantinople and from there overland to England, stopping at one or two places. It has been all most fascinating, but a great deal of the time snow and much cold." She had just got back (April 3rd) and was in bed with a bad cold. We hope she is now recovered.

Sister Craufurd wrote from our own headquarters that as the Dinner was postponed she would be sailing before the date and was greatly disappointed. She sent her love to all old Royaumontites. (She had been over from the U.S.A. with the American Legion pilgrimage to France.)

Sister Everingham communicates the sad news that 'Jimmy' is no more. For the benefit of those who were not at Royaumont in the classic days of 1918, we may explain that Jimmy was one of the canaries that was hatched in the theatre at V.C. (Yes, dear President, the horrid truth may now be admitted!) Needless to say, Jimmy and his brother were not visible when *la Colonelle* was in the offing, for everyone knew that her efforts to suppress surreptitious livestock, that would find its way into the wards, had had a nasty setback when **Butler's** condemned bitch was not only found to be living long after the date of the supposed execution but had brought up a flourishing family, one of whom basely rewarded her clemency in permitting it to ride on her lap to V.C. . . . They were really historic little birds, for, owing to the fact that the Theatre Sister was in one of the last batches to leave when the final signal to abandon the hospital was given, the Boches then being within six kilometres, the canaries, unlike **Butler's** puppy and **Salway's** 'Spot,' had to be left behind. When all the V.C. people had gradually turned up at Royaumont, the *malade* who had been detailed to act as Theatre *brancardier*, failed to appear. There were those who in their thoughts accused *Dominique* of base desertion. But one day, when *Inglis* was in the Hall, she saw a dusty, weary figure stumbling up the path—it was *Dominique*, with a bird-cage in his hand, which he flourished triumphantly, calling for "Seestairs." He had walked the whole way from *Villers Cotterets*, carrying the cage with Jimmy and his brother. So no wonder **Sister Everingham** brought them back to England with her. Poor little Jimmy! May he rest in peace!

Findlay (Mrs. Mitchell), one of our new recruits, writes from West Bromwich that her husband is a doctor and that she has two boys, Peter aged 5, and Hamish aged 3. We are delighted to have news of her; will she send us a photo of the boys for our Album of Royaumont Cubs?

Grandage writes a long, newsy letter: "I have just returned from a two years' trip in Australia, New Zealand, &c." She went straight to **Williams (Lady Smyth)** and spent some 13 or 14 months altogether at their homestead. She is well and very busy, and loves the life. They have a charming big bungalow, with lovely gardens, and land attached—a sheep farm—and it was wonderfully interesting to see the life there. **Grandy** helped to muster and draft the sheep. **Williams** has entire charge of the domestic side of the farm, all the poultry, cows, pigs, &c., and this is where I helped. She has three darling little children fast growing up: the eldest boy is nearly 8; next comes my god-daughter of 6, and then the youngest boy of 4. The two elder ones are already quite expert on their ponies. Domestic labour is difficult and we did quite a lot in the house—laundry-day was a very busy time. . . . **Figgis** was a very kind friend, and I saw her several times passing through Melbourne. She leads more of a town life and is much occupied. . . . I had arranged to meet **Lindsay (Mrs. Haywood)** in Adelaide, but alas! we missed each other. She wrote: 'I often long for home though this is my native land.' . . . I stayed a little time with **Webster (Mrs. Dudley Williams)** in Sydney. She has a charming home overlooking Rose Bay and has a little family of three. They kindly took me off to the Blue Mountains. . . . Over in N.Z. I came across **Dr. Agnes Bennett (Serbia)** who

found me in a nursing home in Wellington, where I had to spend several weeks." **Grandage** says she will never forget her kindness. "I paid a flying visit to **Glossop (Mrs. Gordon Bennett)** when I was up in the Geysers district. She lives at The Bay of Plenty. I found her on a dairy farm, but they are now taking up pedigree stock. She has two children, David, now at home, and a tiny daughter. That is all about the Royaumontites—it was fun seeing them, and there is such goodwill among them all. I finished up my trip by several weeks in N.W. Australia on a sheep farm of nearly a million acres right in the Bush. We had black labour in the house, and it was intensely hot. We were nearly 700 miles from rail-head, so I went up by coastal boat and then motored inland. Coming back, owing to shipping disasters the boats were no use, so I took my courage in two hands and flew down about 900 miles. On the second day the pilot and I were the only two aboard. I found the actual flying rather monotonous. I was not plane-sick, but the noise is very trying." She missed **Little Andy** in Colombo, and also **Big Andy** who was on a case in India. **Grandy** is organizing the Welfare Conference in London, and is off to India in the autumn.

Disorderly (Miss Gray) went to Paris early in April and was to stay for a few days at Le Cheval Blanc, in Viarmes, in order to introduce Royaumont to two of her nieces. We shall await news of old friends with interest.

Mrs. Hacon (Mrs. Robichaud) writes: "I have just got back from Canada, where I spent the summer holidays taking my two boys, Anthony and Raymond, with me. It was a delightful experience for them; they spent the whole of their time with their father in his mill, helped take the rafts of wood down the river and had two months' experience of camp life. They think life on this side very tame and are already counting the time till next summer holidays when we may return to Canada for a longer period. I wish I could go to London for the Dinner on December 6th but it is impossible. With every good wish and affectionate greetings."

Dr. Henry (now Mrs. Stewart Henry) writes: "John was most interested to read in the *News-Letter* that you have a Royaumont Album for the younger generation. He feels that the photo you have of him is a very old one; he has quite grown up now"—he is a year and a half old—and so he sends "a more seemly and dignified reproduction for a man of his years." He certainly looks a fine, sturdy little chap, and the photo reveals that his mother has followed the prevailing fashion with regard to hair—which makes 'The Babe' look younger than ever!

Inglis has now launched out on her own account as a House Decorator, and is ready to undertake anything, from supplying the carpets and curtains of a flat, or distemping the walls of a cottage, to completely decorating and furnishing a hotel or a country mansion in the style of any 'period' desired. She will also advise as to colour schemes, or the cost of restoring old cottages. Her address is c/o 46, Oakley Crescent, S.W.3.

Violet Inglis is now Art Mistress at Eden Hall girls' school, near Penrith, and, we believe, is getting on very well.

The Wee Free (Dr. MacDougall, now Mrs. Hendrie) has also sent the editor some snaps, for the Cubs Album,

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of 'Bunty' or 'The Lesser Wee Free.' "She was just ten months when these were taken. I am out here"—Gold Coast—"with my husband and have left Baby with my husband's aunt at Ilford—Baby is always pleased to see visitors. At present"—November, 1927—"I am acting M.O.H. and School Doctor here (Tamale, N.T.s) and have quite a hectic time. This week we are running a Health Week, a Baby Show and all the other things appertaining thereto, so I am exceedingly busy. Kindest regards to all the Royaumontites."

We received New Year's greetings from **Dr. Manoël** in Roumania—but no news.

Miss Magazin (Morgan) went to S. Africa to repeat her artistic successes of a few years back, and is doing well. She hopes to return via the Seychelles and Japan—among other places.

Martin, members will be sorry to hear, has been ill and has lost her Mother. She says she has been getting a book published—but withholds further details. We all missed her at the Dinner and hope she will turn up next time to exchange reminiscences with other 'Office' people of different date. And will she please tell us about her book?

May writes last October: "I am still working at wool embroideries and I had a stall at the Decorative Arts Exhibition at the Central Hall, Westminster, in May last, where I sold my goods very well and am still busy with orders taken then."

Peter (Madame Campora) writes, last November: "I am always delighted to have the *News-Letter*, and promptly read it from cover to cover. If, like so many others, I annoy your editorial feelings by giving no sign of life, it's because I am always awfully busy, and although my life is extremely interesting to myself, it isn't often that anything happens that seems worthy the attention of other Royaumontites. This time, however, I am answering your call for snaps of Royaumont Cubs—here are three—and she sends some delightful ones of Elizabeth Rose, aged 6½, of Yolaude, and of Juliette Lucienne ('Judy'), aged 2½, "taken in Alsace, in the beautiful Thann valley, where we had a glorious two months holiday. I do wish I could turn up at the dinners—but I fear there isn't much chance of ever being in England at that time of year. Greet everyone for me—I always mean to send a telegram to the Dinner and always forget at the proper moment! Au revoir, and thank all of you awfully for all the trouble you take to keep us scattered people up in the news."

It was very jolly to welcome **Prance** home at the Dinner—looking wonderfully well.

Rawstorne (Mrs. Bruce), whose home address is in Fife, is one of our new recruits who joined as the result of Miss Ivens' generous help in making it financially possible to send our last number to all old Royaumontites. She was unable to come south for the Dinner but hopes to be able to come another time.

Susan Richmond (Mrs. Hayden), who has settled down at Melton Mowbray, is now in a position to send us a photograph of a Royaumont Cub. She was unable to come to the Dinner: "I have to come up to Town a week later, and I've just been up for a sister's wedding, and I simply can't have another outburst! I would have loved to come. You know I never got an invitation to last (1926) Dinner at all, and surely someone must have known I was at the Haymarket! I would have come to the beginning of the dinner and probably got back for the tail end of things." There

is a moral to this tale—but we will not press it, merely referring to p. 1—2.

Rolt has started a hat-shop—'Kay's' in the High Street at Berkhamsted—and would love to see any old Royaumontite who may find herself in that neighbourhood.

Simms wrote, last September: "I have been in Trinidad since May, trying to look after two small children. It's really a beautiful island, and the vegetation is wonderful. Where we live (Apex Oilfields, P'yzabad) it's mostly lush, which is a good thing as it hides most of the ugly oilfield erections. I am so sorry that I shall not be able to come to the Dinner this year."

Salway (Mrs. MacIntosh) came home on the same boat with Inglis' brother, but has now returned to India.

The **Spécialiste** has sent an urgent request to **Merrylees** (who is still working hard as a private masseuse) that any old Royaumontite who can possibly manage it should go over to Boulogne for the Whitsuntide Holiday as he is to be there "à la Pentecôte" (which falls on May 27th) in connection with some special fête. We have no further details, but his address is M. Emile Rouilly, 61 Rue des Aydes, Orléans-les Aydes, Loiret. We believe there are day-trips to Boulogne at holiday seasons. Merrylees herself is to be in France, but inland, at the time.

Stewart is another new recruit, last autumn, to the Association. She is now engaged in rabbit-farming.

Summerhayes, who has taken her tropical medicine diploma, and is now M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and D.P.M.H., went out to the Gold Coast in February to take charge of a new Maternity Hospital and Training School for African midwives, under the Colonial Office, at Accra. It turns out that she is only a few miles from her married sister, though the Colonial Office knew nothing of that when they appointed her. Summerhayes and the **Wee Free** will have to establish a West African branch of the Association! **Little Johnnie** (Mrs. Lyon) is not so very, very far off—somewhere in Nigeria.

Thorne (Mrs. Newton), who has two children, is going round the world to meet her husband, after a time at home.

Tollit, our Hon. Treasurer, is home again, looking very well after her trip to South Africa. She made her headquarters a Y.W.C.A. Hostel at Muizenburg, 16 miles from Capetown, where a friend is Warden. Besides motoring all round Capetown, she visited Joburg, Pretoria, Maritzburg, Ladysmith, Durban, the Natal National Park, and Bloemfontein. Here she met **Dr. Edwards**, now Mrs. Hill, who does a great deal of medical maternity and infant welfare work. (She also met 'Beauty,' Dr. Edwards' bulldog who, hidden in the back seat, emerges to guard the car and its contents from pilferers, when his mistress is paying visits in the approved fashion of one of the Royaumont Garage pack.) Tollit visited a great many native settlements, missions, monasteries, schools, and all the Cape Colony Y.W. Hostels, and so was able to get a very good idea of the social and mission work being done among women in South Africa. She found it all most interesting, and describes the scenery through which she travelled on her train journeys as being most wonderful. She climbed Table Mountain and enjoyed the gorgeous view from the top, where is the memorial to the climbers killed in the war, on the highest rock. She says the railway up Table Mountain is nearly finished, so very soon it will be possible to go by rail. The Committee is exceedingly glad to have the Treasurer back again.