

has a big sheep farm near Hamilton was most hospitable; he, his wife and daughter are coming to England in May to see Young. We also visited "William's" daughter; she and her husband have the sweetest little girl, and live in a very nice farm near Melbourne, the country round it reminded me of Scotland. I was lucky to hit a wonderful summer there and then to return to our best one in years here. "Williams" does a lot to help local charities: the Guides, the Red Cross, etc., etc., and she is on the board of the fine new Portland Hospital. The ladies of Portland all seem to go in for "good works" and they are most hospitable and kind, I can't tell you how many tea parties I went to. People there think nothing of driving a hundred or more miles to attend meetings or to visit friends, and as no baby car would stand up to the roads—if you had a breakdown it might be ages before anyone passed—almost everyone has large highly powered cars, many of them made in Australia. Now sitting over a fire in foggy London it seems like a dream, but of course there is no place like home!

#### Letter from our President

Upalong,  
Lustleigh,  
S. Devon.

11th January, 1956.

Dear Friends,

A happy New Year to everyone and may a good many of us meet this year in October. It was most unfortunate that the Reunion did not take place in October last, but it was due to unforeseen circumstances. This year we are trying to let everyone know the details about the Reunion in this Newsletter. Other matters for discussion have cropped up too. Some members think it is time that we "closed down," as all are getting old and some so decrepit they cannot come to Reunions, others have died and some have lost interest. On the other hand many have become most upset at the idea of letting such an old friendship as our Royaumont Association represents, stop. The thought of no Newsletter upsets the majority, but as Mackay says, how can she get material for it if there is no Association, or how is it to be paid for? It costs about 3s. 2d. per copy and as our subscription is only 2s. 6d. you can see we are in about the same position as our country. The Emergency Fund everyone feels could never be given up and it is more used than ever. Another suggestion is that the Scottish members might carry it on if the headquarters were moved to Edinburgh or Glasgow and the Reunion there instead of in London. It has been decided to have a Reunion this year in London, as usual, and have a discussion about it all. As so many cannot attend a meeting, a postal vote was suggested and you are all asked to send in the enclosed slip. I know postal votes are often very disappointing, as members are too slack to answer, but let us be different please.

Having got off my chest the business part of my letter I shall now be chatty. Unfortunately, there is first the sad recording of the deaths of some of our members. Phyllis Berry died suddenly in May from a heart attack. As you know she was very crippled and was so plucky and sporting about it. I remember Berry coming out to Royaumont in January, 1915, with Mackay and MacGregor, the first batch of orderlies after the original members. Berry settled down so well in the X-Ray department where she did excellent work and carried on till May, 1918. Simonsen, who came out at the very end of our time, was very helpful on the Committee of late years. She died after a long illness in June, and Waddell, who was an orderly for a year from October, 1916 to October, 1917, died in October. Dr. Berry died on August 8th. She was at Royaumont from November, 1914 to July, 1918, and was one of our most loved members and everyone was so distressed at her illness. She was a woman who put her hands to everything from ward dressings and toe nail cutting to cleaning out drains and sawing wood. She also had a very fine brain and a very tender heart. I saw the death of her sister, Dr. Octavia Lewin, in the *Times* this month. Miss Loudon died last year, that is on August 18th, 1954 and I am afraid I did not mention her death in my annual letter. It was certainly not for want of appreciation of her kindly and sympathetic nature in the difficult post of Administrator to which she was appointed. She was so thoughtful for all and did so much in the 1916 rushes to make life as comfortable as possible for those who were working day and night. Nor shall we ever forget her great generosity, kept up for years after 1918 in the gifts of cigarettes for all the Reunions. I stayed with her at North Berwick once soon after Royaumont ended and was utterly spoilt with kindness. Muriel MacIntosh (Mrs. Henderson), one of our chauffeurs, died suddenly from a stroke on December 22nd. She was a second cousin of mine. My friend Muriel Duvall and I stayed with her at her home near Kelso in October so it was a great shock to me. We did this trip in the car instead of the London jaunt for the Reunion, which we had arranged. After staying at Gloucester for one night we went to Ashby-de-la-Zouche and stayed with Drs. Joyce and Foley, whom some of you may remember, came for a month's holiday to Royaumont in August, 1915. They were both general practitioners in Liverpool and friends of Miss Weir. Now they have retired some years ago and are very happy. Vera Foley has taken up painting and belongs to a club and has her pictures hung locally. Dr. Joyce is as cute and amusing as always. From there we went north on A1, which we left at the earliest possibility, at Ferry Bridge and joined the old Roman road marked Corbridge, through Teesdale and Weardale over into Durham and down to the Tyne where "Nicky" and two other sisters have bought a retiring house at Prudhoe, Northumberland. It is a very nice

labour-saving one, facing full south, and with a view over fields and a few scattered farmhouses to the Durham moors and Consett iron works in the far distance, which only really show by the blaze from the furnace at night. So far, only my sister Nora, the Schoolmarm, has retired, but Grace, the Almoner stops work at the end of this month, and Alison is going on for a bit—she can't afford to give up her earnings and also likes her work. We spent ten days with them and had tea one day with Dorothy Anderson in her charming new "house of retirement" at Slaley, near Hexham. She had just retired from her X-Ray work at Hexham and had a lovely presentation bouquet in her room. Her cottage, or rather two cottages, is charming, very old and very well converted and her antiques are lovely. I heard the latest news of her sister Mary (Madame Petitpierre) who lives in France still and her two daughters, both married, one to an Englishman, and the other to a Frenchman. At the moment both are living in the East and there are grandchildren. The Northumberland country is very fine and the roads so good and so free from traffic, and we found the same in Scotland, such a contrast to Devon which is getting almost impossible for motoring in the Summer. From there we went north over Carter Bar and the Cheviots into Tweedside to Kelso. That is a magnificent countryside. The Tweed so stately and the banks so beautifully wooded and Melrose and Dryburgh Abbeys so interesting. Unfortunately Miller's "but and ben" which she had invited us to visit and just to appear on the doorstep one day, was too far west for that tour. We stopped at Liverpool for two nights on our way home and saw a good many old friends there and our last night was spent at Chew Magna, near Bristol, with another old Liverpool friend. The village is very old and very interesting. My wretched hip behaved very well while we were away but played up again at the beginning of December and I had to go back to the Orthopaedic Hospital for three weeks. Luckily I got home for Christmas after rest and physiotherapy. The Reunion uncertainty has done one good thing as it has brought me quite a number of letters from members which have interested me very much.

With every good wish for good health and happiness in 1956 and don't forget the "slip."

Yours affectionately,

RUTH NICHOLSON

#### The future of the Royaumont Association

Here are a few views and suggestions about the future of the Royaumont Association, but even if you have already said what you think about the matter please fill in the slip at the end of this number and send it to our Hon. Secretary, Miss R. Middleton, 90 Kensington Park Road, London, W.11, by September, and then should you be unable to attend the Annual General Meeting, your views will be available when a vote is taken.—*Editor.*

(1) From MacLeod (Glasgow): "I certainly

think that the meetings of the Royaumont Association should continue, just as Armistice Day, and all the Reunions held by other units. Apart from meeting personal friends, I feel a reunion stands for something else."

(2) From Miller (New Galloway): "Betty, Leisham and I all think that the Association should not be closed down. Everyone here is all out for the News Letter. It is one of the joys of the year, a fact which proves that the spirit of Royaumont is still very much alive."

(3) From Banks (New Galloway): "I shall be very sorry if the Association has to be wound up. I very much enjoy the News Letter."

(4) From Stewart (Dumfriesshire, Scotland): "Having heard that there is a movement afoot to bring to an end the Royaumont Association, I write to say that I support Collum's strong reactions to this. I for one read the News Letter from cover to cover and am grateful to the Editor for her efforts and even the thought of the Emergency Fund is a help in these difficult times."

(5) From Jamieson (Dumbartonshire, Scotland): "Rumour has reached me that there is a talk of the Association having to close down. To us who are so scattered it is a blow because although it is generally impossible for us to travel south, we always feel part of the Association and the News Letter is eagerly awaited each year."

(6) From Oliver (London): "Personally I think we should now wind up the Royaumont Association. I see no object in going on with it."

(7) From Rolt (Cumberland): "I was sorry to hear they are thinking of closing down the Royaumont Association but quite understand that the people who do the work are getting a bit tired of it."

(8) From Collum: "The vitality of the Association cannot be judged by attendance of members at the now costly London Reunion Luncheons. It lies, rather, in the appreciation of scattered Royaumontites of their News Letter, and in the satisfaction they must feel in hearing of the continued helpfulness to members in distress of the Emergency Fund so generously supported by the keenest "Old Royaumontites"—and in the good attendance of Scottish members at informal reunions organised in the country that gave the Royaumont Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals birth. Centralisation in London was simply due to the fact that our Chief was an Englishwoman whose work lay in the South. Our small Committee, meeting always in London, appears to forget that the S.W.H. is Scottish."

(I don't think so—*Editor.*)

(9) From Ramsay-Smith: "I am wondering what the Committee are doing about the suggestion to wind up the Royaumont Association. I hope you have got a letter from the proposer giving her reasons which can be put in the News Letter so that all the members know where we stand and who has suggested the closure. I've heard about half-a-dozen names but not one as

the definite proposer and I think we members ought to know. Personally I am quite against the idea and think that the Association should be carried on even if the numbers dwindle to a select band of 25. The News Letter is of great interest to many and we are all most grateful to you for arranging it for so many years. It has meant a lot of work and you have done it splendidly."

(10) **Tollit** writes: "I do hope the R.A. members will vote. I realise the difficulties in carrying on the Association, but it would be a pity to wind it up after so long and having survived a second world war. Unfortunately postal ballots have never brought much response in the past. I think members abroad would regret the death of the News Letter."

(11) **Dr. Hancock** (Mrs. Barfett) writes: "Collum told me there would be no reunion this year and that there is a likelihood of the Association being closed down. I trust it will not. I always like to attend the Reunion whenever possible. I trust sufficient persons will be found to carry on the working of the Association. I know it must be difficult and getting more so every year."

(12) **Dr. Martland**, writing to the Editor, says: "Smieton and her husband are staying near here which is very pleasant; they came over to see us yesterday. She feels strongly against letting our annual reunions drop—however antique we may have become. So do I, though I have missed regrettably many, October being one of my favourite holiday months. However, now that I have at last retired it will be easier, I hope to turn up, and I think it would be a sad mistake to forestall time in ending our reunions. The News Letter is an immense pleasure."

### In Memoriam

We regret to record the deaths of:

**M. E. Waddell** died in Sussex on 13th September, 1955. There must still be Royaumont members who remember Waddell in the kitchen at Royaumont. After the war for many years she ran a most successful teashop and snack bar under the name of "Jane Brown" at Kensington, which was greatly patronised by students and others. She also used to do the catering for important official dinners and banquets. She only retired recently, and it is sad that she did not live longer to enjoy her well earned leisure.

Writing of her, Miller says: "I have very happy memories of little Waddell, she and I worked in 'Mary for a short time."

**G. A. Simonsen** died in a nursing home on 3rd June, 1955. In a letter to Collum, her brother said: "Her mind rapidly deteriorated and for many months she failed to recognise people. In the end she died in her sleep, it was a happy release."

The Royaumont Committee will always remember with gratitude the trouble Simonsen took in helping to arrange our reunions, once or twice

holding meetings in her flat in Southampton Row. An active social worker, she took a lot of trouble some years ago in trying to get a pension for "Big Murray."

**H. Mackintosh** (Mrs. Henderson) died at her home in Kelso on 23rd December, 1955. In sending the notice of her death, Betty Bruce writes: "Mackintosh and I were always good friends at Royaumont and I shall miss her." She also adds that she had received a Christmas Card from Mackintosh in her own handwriting on the actual day of her death, so we hope she was spared a long illness.

Collum sends the following:

### The Late Miss Octavia Lewin

All of those of us who were of the 1914/15 vintage of Royaumont must have heard with a pang of the death, on December 27th, of "Dr. Octavia Lewin" as she was universally known, though actually she was M.B., B.S.(Lond). She really could be called an honorary Royaumontite, being one of that devoted trio of fellow students and friends, herself, her sister Dr. Augusta Berry, and Miss Ivens, and although her own service in France was at the English Military Hospital at Dieppe in 1914, and as *médecin chef* of the French Military Hospital at Charenton in 1915-16, followed by her appointment as aural surgeon to the Endell St. Military Hospital in 1917-18. She took, not a more active, but a more spectacular part in the movement for Women's Suffrage than Miss Ivens (who supported the constitutional Nation Union for Women's Suffrage, the president of whose Scottish Federation was Dr. Elsie Inglis, our founder) for Dr. Lewin early supported the break-away movement led by the late Lady Pethick Lawrence, founder of the Women's Freedom League. Dr. Lewin was always ready to help Royaumont and Royaumontities both during the 1914 war and after it. At our Dr. Henry's instance, she saved me from having to have a frontal sinus operation, and helped large numbers of patients I sent to her, free, gratis and for nothing at her Soho Clinic if they could not afford to pay. She was an old Queen's College student, where she was Arnott Scholar, and later Goldsmith Scholar of Girton, and studied also at the Royal Free, and the Dublin Rotunda, and later was rhinologist to the L.C.C. and the Roll of Honour Hospital. She was a lifelong homoeopathist and in 1945 was elected a member of the Faculty of Homoeopathy. She was a Governor of Bedford College and a school manager under the L.C.C., a Vice-president of the Society of Women Writers and Journalists (and their honorary rhinologist) and a prominent member of the Federation of University Women, and a member of the National Council for Lunacy Reform. Her niece is the successful dress designer "Calista" (Miss Welstead), late of Wigmore Street, to whom we offer our sympathy. They lived together for more than forty years.

**Mrs. Berry** died on 8th August, 1955, peacefully at Maidenhead Nursing Home. To quote the notice in the *Daily Telegraph*: "Jessie Augusta Berry, wife of the late Grosvenor Berry, and youngest daughter of the late Robert Lewin of 25 Wigmore Street, W.1."

Some of us will recall Mrs. Berry who, in the early days of Royaumont, was such an enthusiastic hard working doctor. Physically fragile looking, nothing deterred her and I can see her in her white coat and gum boots, up to her ankles in water, endeavouring to "debouche" choked drains. Her delightful unconventional and whimsical manner endeared her to everyone, even if they did not always agree with her. She was, in the early days, always a kind friend of the orderlies, ready to overlook their occasionally unprofessional conduct and to sympathise with them in their troubles. We print below a short appreciation of Mrs. Berry by her friend and colleague, Dr. Martland.

My first sight of Mrs. Berry was on the day when I arrived at Royaumont, very young and bewildered, in June, 1916. She appeared at supper in the cloisters, having been in Paris on business for the *Médecin-Chef*—a frail unprofessional-looking figure, uniform worn anyhow and hat askew. Suddenly the whole sombre atmosphere changed, and in a moment the doctors' table was rocking with laughter at her fantastic tales of the day's adventures told with rare and delicate wit. But someone said "Mrs. Berry will have a headache tomorrow," and sure enough, she paid for her brilliance with a formidable migraine next day. That was a characteristic episode. Hers was a spirit too intense and sensitive for the tragedy of war. But she threw herself into the life of Royaumont with passionate energy, sparing herself nothing.

Though she had never, as far as I know, practised medicine to any extent, she was a most valuable doctoresse, original and often unorthodox in outlook, but as practical as she was imaginative. It was from watching her ingenuity in restoring function to wasted limbs and fingers that I learned that after-care may be more important than surgery.

As I think of Mrs. Berry I am reminded of some lines written by W. E. Henley on, I believe, R.L.S.:

"A deal of Ariel, just a streak of Puck,  
And something of the Shorter-Catechist."

For with all her wit and gaiety and fun, she had a driving sense of duty that could on occasion be puritanical. She could not rest while anything remained to be done; so she never rested. I remember how the sight of Scottish Women "going for a walk" would infuriate her, and she often spent her leisure digging the neglected earth. She was a farmer's wife, and looked at the land with a severely practical eye.

Older than most of us, and more highly strung

and sensitive by nature, the wear and tear of our life at Royaumont became an increasing strain upon her, and when, after the unforgettable summer of 1918, we had time to look around us and take stock of ourselves, it was obvious that Mrs. Berry was one of the casualties of those terrible months. She left the unit in August, 1918, broken in health, and I believe it is true to say that she never fully recovered, though death did not come to her until last August. For some of us she lives on in memory, shedding a radiance upon the years at Royaumont.

**Phyllis Berry** died suddenly last May (1955) at her home in Horsham. "Granny B," as we used to call her, was a loyal and trustworthy friend, and when adversity overtook her showed great courage. She was very happy at Horsham where she had a charming house and garden. She was able to drive her car and was quite near to her sister. Berry, McGregor and I all went out to Royaumont together in January, 1915, and I remember poor Berry was very homesick and shocked by the unconventionality (and at that time) extreme discomfort of our surroundings. Later she found work that suited her well in the X-Ray Department. We shall miss her familiar figure at our Reunions, she was a very keen member of the Royaumont Association, and took a lot of trouble to attend our meetings.

Katherine Loudon

Directrice of Royaumont

THE ROBIN

Mackay has accorded to me the great honour of sending an appreciation of "The Robin" to the Royaumont News Letter. Writing is not my line, but for my great affection for "The Robin," I will do my best.

One of my solaces of World War I, was my stay at Royaumont from which sprung my friendship with Robin.

A sorely tried Robin when I first arrived at Royaumont in the Autumn of 1915, "la Crise du Charbon" at that time casting a cloud over Royaumont, and on the Directrice seemed to fall the responsibility of delivering to the Abbaye that essential commodity. When, however, the black harvest was safely garnered, what a blythe Robin moved among us! Always ready to take part in any of the amusements that Royaumont could offer, always ready to help in any project of that strangely assorted but delightfully heterogeneous community. One vivid recollection I have of her is at a Fancy Dress Party; she was attired as a lady of the 18th century wearing a most becoming head-dress of lace and ribbons (actually a "boudoir cap"! ). She came into the big hall in the Sedan Chair, carried in by myself, dressed as the man on *The Tatler*, and, I believe, Buckley. She stepped from the Sedan Chair looking a most

adorably dainty figure, greeted by all with acclamation, and affection.

Robin had smoked with enjoyment at the age of six, then abandoned it for life, but always provided the cigarettes at all the Royaumont functions.

To my great pleasure she asked me in 1920 to stay with her in North Berwick. A stay in Scotland had always been in and from my childhood a joy — to cross the border a never lessening excitement. Never shall I forget the welcome at North Berwick station, at about 9 p.m. Robin's smiling face was there to greet me, then the lovely fire in the drawing room, though it was only early September, but how much appreciated after the fireless grates of the South of England, all combined to make my first arrival at Robin's house an unforgettable event. And what a house it was, not large but so compact, so comfortable, her cook one of the best, the other servants always anxious for one's comfort. I have never stayed in a better run house. She had a genius for entertaining her guests and there was never a dull moment. She arranged motoring picnics to the Lammer Muirs and other interesting places around, visits to Edinburgh often to see the first performances of, later, well-known plays or films. All "si bien organisé."

Some of her writing had been published in Blackwood's magazine. She also published two books of delightful poems, but published them privately, which was, as I told her, a mistake for in that way the publishers have no vested interest in the book's success, and her poems deserve to be much better known.

In the last book of her poems which she gave me she wrote:

*To Nancy*

"The Robin warbles on the tree  
But no one is compelled to heed it  
And though you take this book from me  
You need not feel obliged to read it.  
And yet it may recall perchance  
By thought oblique our times in France  
And this time too when you came North  
To golf beside the Firth of Forth —  
And in these lines at least you can see  
The writer dearly loves her Nancy,  
For when you went away you took  
The Robin's heartlet with her book."

She was a delightful companion, so well read. She was naturally also an outdoor person being a most successful gardener, resulting in a beautiful garden producing such flowers, vegetables and fruit. She was a tremendous favourite in the neighbourhood, a shining light in the local episcopal church. At her house one met many of her pleasant cousins, MacNeals, MacLeans,

etc., who had some beautiful places on the west coast of Scotland. I used to say that a large portion of the West Scottish Coast was owned by her cousins. Here, Kate, as she was known among them all, was a frequent guest.

An only daughter with three brothers older than herself, she had always been in her young days accustomed to a great deal of men's society, but thoroughly enjoyed that of women. There had been much entertaining at her father's houses in Edinburgh and North Berwick and she kept this up when living in North Berwick, first with her brother and then alone.

She was an ardent suffragist and in other ways had always moved with the times, having for instance, the wireless in its very early days. The most difficult crosswords were child's play to her. She was a fair musician, but seldom played, a knitter at times. I think I only *once* saw her sewing, she was darning a stocking, an unusual event, when she cried out "Oh, I've lost it!" "What," I exclaimed in sympathy, "Your needle?" "No my hole."

I stayed with her every year except one, from 1920 to 1939, and every visit was a joy, always some fresh pleasure in store.

I went once again to North Berwick in 1949. Robin was as active in her garden as ever, though then almost 80. Together we attended the Edinburgh Festival, an impressive ending to visits made so delightful by Robin's kindness, power of entertainment and gaiety. If we met in some other happy clime I am sure we should laugh once more over our many jokes, especially at Robin's "lost hole."

NANCY ESTCOURT OSWALD.

### Dr. Savill's Book

I am sure all Royaumont members will send their heartiest congratulations to Dr. Savill on the success of her book "Alexander the Great and his time." We print part of a review of it by Collum which appeared in *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times* of 7th May, 1955.

### ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND HIS TIME

Soon we shall be seeing a film, made in Spain, about the famous Macedonian conqueror of an empire, Alexander the Great. Such "historical" pictures are largely fiction. Now a versatile Scottish physician, Dr. Agnes Savill, has just published a book about the real Alexander (Rockcliffe Press, London, 25s.). It is even more thought-provoking than her earlier book, "Music, Health and Character." For nearly 30 years she has also edited a number of editions of her late distinguished husband's "Savill's Clinical Medicine."

Dr. Agnes Savill has had her country home in the Guildford area since 1925, and throughout the

late war was in charge of the dermatological clinic at the Royal Surrey County Hospital during Dr. Bamber's absence in India. In the 1914 War she served in the Scottish Women's Hospital attached to the French Army, at the Abbaye de Royaumont, for which she earned the Croix de Guerre.

Fascinated by Alexander's complex personality she first determined, five years ago, to summarise and integrate for the general reader what his near contemporaries, and modern geographers, strategists and historians have recorded of him. Having mastered this "case history" with the close attention of an experienced clinician, she proceeded to a diagnosis of his character.

Alexander, a military genius and magnanimous conqueror, conspicuously chivalrous toward women, tutored in boyhood by Aristotle, early felt the spell of Egypt, and, since that time, had nursed a vision of himself as (his own phrase!) "the Reconciler of the World," with the mission to bring about the brotherhood of mankind. He died in his early thirties, in Babylon, of a fever — probably malaria — but Dr. Savill cogently argues that his life-work was not wasted, for he initiated a new phase of civilisation, that survived even the break-up of his empire.

She frankly claims that he was both practical soldier and mystic, convinced of his mission to extend the high ethical standard of Greek culture throughout his huge empire and so to reconcile all nations in one brotherhood. There are good photogravure plates of portrait busts of Alexander.

V. C. C. COLLUM.

### Changes of Address 1955

Jamieson, Miss A. L.: Bank House, Kilcraggan, Dumbartonshire.

Large (Mrs. Wilson): 9 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey.

Leng, Miss H. M.: 8 Rothesay Terrace, Edinburgh, 3.

Main (Mrs. Breakey): 9 Eastbury Court, London, W.14.

Marriott (Mrs. Lake): 11 Grange Road, Southover, Lewes, Sussex.

Merrylees, Miss A. L.: Harborne Hall, Birmingham.

Williams, Miss P.: 66 Sandy Lane, West Kirby, Cheshire.

### Donations 1955

Donations to the Royaumont Association and Emergency Fund were received from:

MISS NICHOLSON

SISTER ROSE-MORRIS

DR. AGNES SAVILL

MRS. BREAKEY

for which we are very grateful.

### From Far and Near

Collum we are sorry to hear has had poor health and is still under medical treatment, since she became ill more than a year ago. We hope the thought of the Royaumont Association being wound up has not worried her too much. "Royaumont comradeship still counts for something in this selfish world," she writes. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Day, B. writes from her home in Southampton: "I have only twice been to a tea or dinner but I always enjoy the News Letter."

Everingham, W. writing to the Hon. Treasurer last August said she had just come out of the Royal West Sussex Hospital at Chichester where she was treated for a fractured femur. We are glad to know that she is now all right.

Goss (Mrs. Harpur) writing to Carter from Stoke-on-Trent says that she is busier than ever: "I drive my husband (a doctor) on his morning rounds and am still on the Alsager Urban District Council which takes up a lot of time."

Keil (Mrs. Neethling) who is still in South Africa has not been home since 1936, she has three grandchildren who live a long way off in Johannesburg and Capetown, so she only sees them once a year.

Leng, M. has now moved into a very nice flat in Rothesay Terrace, Edinburgh. In the old days the large houses there were considered to be the Mayfair of Edinburgh, or should I say Park Lane? Now many of them are offices and a few like the one Leng has have been converted into flats. These flats have beautiful views at the back across the Water of Leith, and are very quiet although quite central. Leng has had hers delightfully decorated, everything looked new and shining when I saw it last summer. She is

our Reunions but she writes: "I always think of you and enjoy the News Letter."

**Sister Rose-Morris** writing from Edinburgh in October to Carter says: "I should dearly love to attend the luncheon or dinner this year but it is not possible; I have not seen Miller or Ramsay-Smith this year (1955)."

**Simms, H.** writes from Sydney: "I am travelling in Australia and working at the same time, otherwise it would be an expensive business. First in Brisbane doing hotel work, I also went up to Cairns where it is tropical of course, and where there is some beautiful country in the hinterland. Here I have been fruit picking and then went on to hops, an easy job. Now (March) the apple picking is in full swing."

Sorry I did not see Simms when I was in Australia but I won't fly and the distances are immense and the train service somewhat patchy. —(Editor).

**Wilson, M.** writes: "Sad that there is no Reunion in Scotland or London this year."

**Young**, who lost her mother last summer, is expecting her brother, sister-in-law and niece on a visit from Australia in May. She and her sister are looking for a smaller unfurnished flat

in Kensington, or failing that a house in the country. Should any Royaumont members hear of anything she will be very grateful if they will let her know.

## NOTICES and ACCOUNTS

### The Annual General Meeting and Reunion

It is hoped to have a luncheon on Friday, 5th October. This will be held at "The Service Women's Club," 52 Lower Sloane Street, London, S.W.1. The General meeting will be held after the lunch, at about 1.30 p.m., as the lunch will probably be held at 12.30 p.m. Particulars will be sent to members later.

### Emergency Loan Fund

The Royaumont Association Emergency Loan Fund has made two grants this year and the balance in hand at January 15th, 1956 is £210 13s., and the interest due for 1955 about £6 or £7.

R. MIDDLETON

### LUNCHEON ACCOUNTS, 1954

| Payments                  |     |       | Receipts                     |     |        |
|---------------------------|-----|-------|------------------------------|-----|--------|
|                           | £   | s. d. |                              | £   | s. d.  |
| August 23: Postage ... .. |     | 15 0  | Cash in hand ... ..          |     | 4 7 11 |
| Lunch ... ..              | 6   | 18 0  | Lunch tickets ... ..         | 9   | 5 0    |
| Hire of Room ... ..       | 2   | 2 0   | Donations to expenses ... .. | 3   | 3 6    |
| Tip to staff ... ..       |     | 1 0 0 |                              |     |        |
| Cash in hand, 1955 ... .. | 6   | 1 5   |                              |     |        |
|                           | £16 | 16 5  |                              | £16 | 16 5   |

### Hon. Treasurer's Statement of Accounts for year ending December 31st, 1955

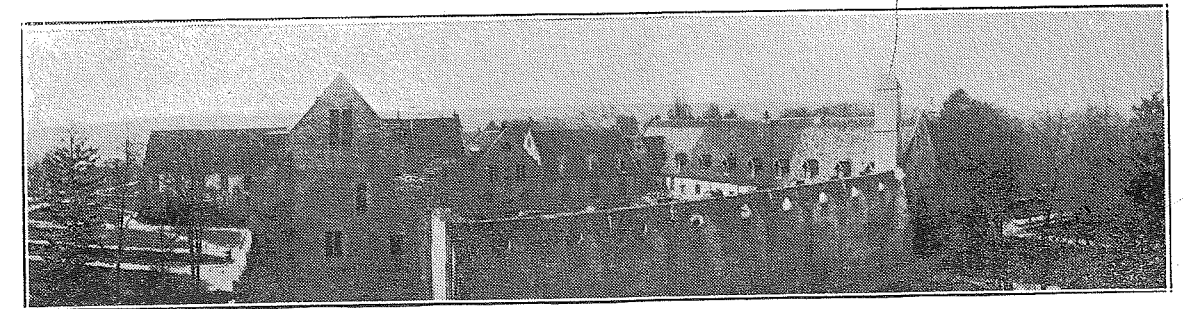
| Payments  |     |       | Receipts                           |     |        |
|---|-----|-------|------------------------------------|-----|--------|
|   | £   | s. d. |                                    | £   | s. d.  |
| Wembley Press Ltd., printing News Letter ... .. | 17  | 7 1   | Balance in hand, January 1st, 1955 | 70  | 17 8   |
| Postage, News Letter ... ..                     |     | 15 0  | P.O. Interest for 1954 ... ..      |     | 1 12 0 |
| Stamps, Hon. Treasurer ... ..                   |     | 15 0  | Subscriptions ... ..               | 16  | 1 4    |
| Balance in hand, December 31st, 1955            | 80  | 1 5   | Donations ... ..                   | 10  | 7 6    |
|   | £98 | 18 6  |                                    | £98 | 18 6   |

ANGELA HILLS, *Hon. Treasurer.*

### Hon. Treasurer's Note

The Receipts Total of £98 18s. 6d. includes subscriptions for future years, paid in advance, amounting to £12 10s. 0d.

# Royaumont News-Letter



JANUARY 1956

No. 19

**Object of the Association:** To maintain our war-time comradeship.

**Subscription:** Half-a-crown per annum, payable 1st January, for the year.

**President:** Miss Ruth Nicholson, M.S.

**Vice-President:** Lady Sanderson.

**Chairman:** Mrs. Alison, 14 Abingdon Court, Kensington, London, W.8.

**Hon. Secretary:** Miss Rachel Middleton, 90 Kensington Park Road, London, W.11.

**Hon. Treasurer:** Lady Hills, 37 Cottessmore Court, Kensington, London, W.8.

**Hon. Editor:** Miss C. F. N. Mackay, 15 Upper Cheyne Row, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

## Editorial

One of the things that used to add spice to our arduous life at Royaumont was the prevalence of rumours. For example, you heard on good authority in the Orderlies sitting-room of course, that someone had just arrived from England to work in the scullery, but that she was no ordinary worker but in reality a spy sent out by the all powerful Edinburgh Committee, to listen, as she peeled potatoes, and to report upon her fellow workers. Or again when the wind blew strongly from the West making the distant booming of the guns louder than usual it was said on good authority that the Germans were within a few hours march from the Abbey, and your best friend whispered in your ear to comfort you, that she knew where to get death dealing pills from the theatre to swallow should they arrive! No one knew where the rumours came from or how they originated. And today true to type we, the "remnant of Royaumont," are busy with another rumour that the Royaumont Association, News Letter and all are to be given up. Who started this rumour? So far only one person has written definitely stating that it should be wound up, but one or two such views are swamped by the apparently overwhelming desire that the Association should be continued. The resignation of our valued Hon. Secretary Middleton, who has, we are glad to say, agreed to stay on, but only until after the General Meeting this year, and the difficulty of finding someone to take her place, no doubt made some of us ask ourselves if the moment had not come to wind it up. The fact, too, that there was no Reunion last year (1955) made your Editor wonder how in future she could

collect any news. Our President has pointed out that the Emergency Fund is a very important part of the organisation and without an Association it would be difficult to hear of anyone in need. However, the Committee considers that the best method of getting the opinions of members and killing the rumour is a postal vote. A form is enclosed at the end of this number which it is hoped all readers will fill in and send to the Hon. Secretary by next September, full instructions on page 8. May I take this opportunity of thanking Royaumont members for the nice things they have said about the News Letter, and of assuring them that I shall be delighted to carry on as Editor so long as they want me to do so.

Now there is little space left to tell you about my visit to "Williams" in Australia last year. This was indeed a great adventure, and I was thrilled seeing all the wonderful ports we called at en route. After Colombo the time seemed interminable, nothing but sea everywhere, no ships, no birds, nothing but a few flying fish. At Melbourne there was a tremendous crowd, and I waved for quite a long time to a woman I thought was "Williams" getting no response, but at last we did meet. She lives at Portland, a little seaside place within easy reach of which are wonderful white sandy bays looking out to the open sea, where, unlike our crowded coasts, you can enjoy almost complete solitude. The weather was perfect all the time I was there and we went for expeditions to Adelaide, and to many places round Portland, including some lovely long drives to big sheep stations where we sometimes spent the night. Young's brother who