

*Dr. Martland -
American used*

Royaumont News - Letter



JANUARY 1957

No. 20

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 Barbara Johnson, 5 Thistle Grove, London, S.W.10.

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

A Good New Year to all readers, and good news, the rumour that we might shortly wind up has been squashed, as by an overwhelming majority it has been decided to carry on our Royaumont Association. First of all before commenting upon this I must thank everyone for the kind vote of thanks given me at the General meeting, and also for the many kind and appreciative things said in letters about the "News Letter." It is most heartening and let us hope will inspire "your Editor" to make further efforts. At the General Meeting there appeared to be only one vote against carrying on, and after all the years that have passed since Collum, in the face of some opposition, started the Association, it says a lot that the spirit of our war time comradeship has survived to enjoy such a healthy old age. There are of course many missing from our ranks which should draw the survivors closer together. We record with much regret the deaths of Dr. Buckley and Sister Bedwell. Dr. Buckley was one of our most faithful and kindly members, of her great capabilities many friends and colleagues have written, some of these letters are printed in this number. Sister Bedwell went out to Royaumont early in 1915, where her work was much appreciated, she died on 10th March 1956, and we are glad to know, from her sister that her end was peaceful, and send our sincere sympathy to her relatives.

We were delighted to have our President Miss Nicholson with us on the 3rd of October looking so much better. Drs. Savill, Hancock, and Martland were also present which was quite like old times. Every year our Doctoresses distinguish

themselves, last year it was Mrs. Savill with her clever study of Alexander the Great, this year members will be most interested in Dr. Martland's adventures in America see page 3. On another page we print part of an interesting article which appeared this summer in the *Scotsman* "Yugoslav Hospitals Revisited," by Lady Hutton, and it is wonderful to know that the hospital which the Edinburgh and the London Committees of the S.W.H. gave to the medical women of Yugoslavia still carries on. As you know last summer the centenary of the founding of the Victoria Cross was celebrated in London by a service in Westminster Abbey, a review in Hyde Park of all the V.C.s by the Queen, and a week of other festivities held in their honour. From Australia, with others "Williams" (Lady Smyth widow of Major General Sir Nevill Smyth V.C.) faced the long sea voyage here and back to attend, so we had some delightful weeks together.

It has been suggested that our annual subscription of 2s. 6d. per annum might be increased, but as our Hon. Treasurer receives many contributions which exceed this amount and for which we are most grateful, it would not appear to be necessary to do so at present. Members will be sorry to learn that Middleton has resigned from being our Hon. Sec. which she has done so efficiently, often letting us meet at her house and showing much patience and tact throughout. We are lucky to have got B. Johnson in her place and are most grateful to her for kindly taking on the job, readers please note her address on the front page of this number.

Letter from our President

Uplong, Lustleigh,
Devon.

Dear Friends, 10th January, 1957

It was so nice seeing so many of you in October at our Luncheon reunion, and hearing of all the doings of Royaumontites. Some don't seem to have changed a bit, others are greyer of course, others who could not come were greatly missed. Of course there is never time to hear everyone's doings although we all talk hard and at once as always. This year I was staying in a hotel at Reigate for a short week-end there was no time to go about much. Also our car did not behave well in Reigate main street, trouble with the gears, and we held up the main traffic on a Saturday morning.

I seem to have very little news to tell you this time. I heard from Dr. Henry whose son is now a fully qualified obstetrician and Gynaecologist and has an Honorary appointment in an Ottawa Hospital. He was also married last year to a charming girl of an Ottawa family of whom Dr. Henry seems to approve greatly.

The Reigate holiday was the only one I had last year so there is very little to report. As both my friends have been ill during the winter it has been a bit of a struggle.

Excuse this terribly dull letter. I'll try and do better next year.

Yours sincerely,

RUTH NICHOLSON

In Memoriam

From the British Journal of Radiology

G. Lieba Buckley,

M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.A. (Cantab.), D.M.R.E.

We record with deep regret the passing of Dr. G. Lieba Buckley. She died on Monday, 2nd July, at her home in Bournemouth after a protracted illness borne with great fortitude. Dr. Buckley was the daughter of a venerated general practitioner of Thrapston, Northamptonshire. She boarded at St. Swithun's School, Winchester, and proceeded to Girton College, Cambridge, for graduation in Natural Science. Subsequently she became interested in medicine and studied at the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women. In 1927 she succeeded Dr. Florence Storey, a practising radiologist in Bournemouth. She held honorary appointments at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth, and at the Lymington and District Hospital. At the time of her decease she held consultant appointments at these hospitals as well as at Christchurch Hospital.

It is quite impossible not to associate with Dr. Buckley the unusual but interesting happenings in her life. She took a university course leading to Part II (Physics) of the National Sciences Tripos at Cambridge, when it was unusual for women to do such a thing. She then took up medicine, a most rare calling for women at that time. When the First World War broke out, she interrupted her course of studies in order to serve in France with the Scottish Women's Hospital Service. On her return she resumed her studies

and qualified in 1922. She then specialised in radiology under the tutelage of the late Dr. Barclay, at Cambridge. Soon after commencing in radiological practice she was joined in partnership by Dr. Kathleen M. Henderson, and subsequently, for a short period, by Dr. Joan Lassater.

When Dr. Buckley became a member of the British Institute of Radiology in 1926, and a member of the Wessex Branch, she began a 30-year period of loyal support that was only broken by service overseas with the R.A.M.C. during the Second World War. Immediately on her return she resumed her old association with the Institute. She represented the Wessex Branch on Council and the Medical Committee as early as 1929. She was elected Chairman of the Medical Committee of the Institute during the 1954-55 session and subsequently became an elected member of Council in her own right. Living some distance from London, she was deeply conscious of the importance of keeping country members in touch with the activities of the Institute and, therefore, she was a great advocate of branch meetings throughout the whole country.

Dr. Buckley was loyal to her colleagues, devoted in her services and totally selfless in her aspirations. She will be sadly missed by her many friends. She was so much in our midst, her friendship so true, her counsels wise, her actions generous. Her loss will be felt as a personal bereavement.

R. I. ROBERTS

From the British Medical Journal

Dr. G. Lieba Buckley

Dr. G. Lieba Buckley died at her home in Bournemouth on 2nd July after a long illness. She was 65 years of age. Born on 2nd April, 1891, the daughter of the late Dr. T. W. Buckley, of Thrapston, Northamptonshire, who was a greatly respected general practitioner, Gladys Lieba Buckley decided to take up medicine at the early age of nine. From St. Swithun's School, Winchester, she entered Girton College, Cambridge, taking Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1913 and Part II in the following year. She then went on to the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women to receive her clinical training. Before qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1922 she spent some time in France with the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit at Royaumont during the first world war. She obtained the London degrees of M.B., B.S. in 1923, and held the appointments of resident surgeon at the Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate, and assistant medical officer and radiologist at the Ransom Sanatorium, Mansfield, before settling at Bournemouth in 1926. She decided on a career in radiology and took the D.M.R.E. of Cambridge in 1927. She acquired a large radiological practice in Bournemouth, succeeding the late Dr. Florence Storey, who died in 1932. At the time of her death Dr. Buckley was consultant radiologist to the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, Bournemouth, the Lymington and District Hospital, and the Christchurch Hospital. During the second world war she joined the R.A.M.C. and was employed in Haifa, Palestine, for two years. She continued at work in Bournemouth until 1953. A member of the British Medical Association for 32 years, she acted as one of the honorary secretaries of the Section of

Leng sends the following—

Flat 2, 4 Milner Road,
Westbourne,
Bournemouth

Dear Miss Leng, 3rd July, 1956

You may not know who I am, but I have been Dr. Buckley's partner for many years. You will be sorry to hear that she has now left us. She died peacefully yesterday morning. I am glad to say that she had very little actual pain during her long illness, but she had a great deal of discomfort which she bore with exemplary fortitude.

She will be very much missed both here and elsewhere. She was a very fine person and a very fine Radiologist, and I seldom knew anyone with such a host of friends.

I am sending you this line as I know you were in communication with her recently and you would like to know what has happened.

Yours sincerely,

K. M. HENDERSON

Letters to the Editor

From Dr. Martland.

Dear Miss Mackay,

It is cheering to be able to give you the glad news that Royaumont is still gratefully remembered in many American homes, and that a prominent citizen of New York is one of our most devoted blessés.

I never suspected it myself till February of last year, when a queer thing happened. It started with a telephone call to my house in Dorset. An unknown American in London wanted to know if I had been a surgeon at Royaumont in 1918; also, if I had red hair. Next day came a call from the B.B.C. asking for an appointment, and a few days later two charming Americans and a young man from the B.B.C. were drinking sherry round my fire, looking at my Royaumont photographs, and telling me what it was all about.

There was to be a nation-wide Appeal for the American Red Cross, launched by a broadcast speech by President Eisenhower. In the half-hour before the speech, as part of the Appeal, a television programme called "This is your Life" would celebrate the life of the Executive Director of the Red Cross in New York, Mr. J. Harrison Heckman. This programme is planned to include the maximum of surprise, the principal figure in it having no idea till the last moment that he will be called to the television screen. A compère, briefed in his life history by his family, reconstructs in conversation the whole story starting from the cradle, and confronts him at relevant moments with those who have played a notable part in his life. That was where I came in, though I had never to my knowledge heard of Mr. Heckman. It appeared, however, that he had been badly wounded in 1918 in France, and that he often spoke of Royaumont and of a young English doctor whom he believed to have saved his leg from amputation. "This is your Life" was on the trail of this young woman from Mr. Heckman's past. The search had been complicated by the fact that her name was unknown, but was thought to be possibly Gertrude; her hair, however, was certainly red. "If you'd been mousey" said my visitors, "we'd never have found you."

Radiology and Electrotherapeutics when the Association held its Annual Meeting at Bournemouth in 1934. She was also a member of the Radiologists Group Committee from 1950 to 1952.

K.M.H. writes: Dr. Buckley was a woman of marked ability and many interests. She travelled as widely as the exigencies of her profession would allow, and maintained a keen interest in music and sport, especially cricket. Her devotion to duty was the mainspring of her life, and during her last year, when illness kept her from active work, she spent her failing strength in literary work in connexion with her chosen speciality and in keeping in touch, both personally and by correspondence, with the large circle of friends who will now sincerely mourn her loss.

Dr. T. H. T. Gauthy writes: I first met G.L.B. 20 years ago and soon realised that her life was devoted to radiology, and that little time was left for her other interests. She was an individual of great integrity and had a strong personality, but behind it all she was a most kindly and sympathetic person who was always ready to help and give advice to those who needed it. She took a great interest in the British Institute of Radiology, but her real love was the Wessex Branch of the B.I.R., which she supported and worked for with enthusiasm. During the war Dr. Buckley felt that she would like to take an active part in Army medicine and joined the R.A.M.C., being posted out to the Middle East to work as a radiologist. Her hospital activities ranged from radiological duties to umpiring cricket matches, a subject upon which she was quite an authority. Gardening provided her with some relaxation, and her flowers always gave her great pleasure. In recent years her health had been poor, and it was then that one appreciated her great courage and determination not to give in. During the last year her friends have had the greatest admiration for the courageous way she accepted her illness. We are all very sad that we shall no longer have her company.

Dr. K. M. Andrew writes: It was already clear when I first met Dr. G. L. Buckley in the early days of her radiological work that she was of unusual calibre, with an eager alert mind and the courage to be different. Medicine was her vacation, and she became interested in radiology while serving with the Scottish Women's Unit in France during the first world war. After she started consultant practice she was always ready to give of her time, knowledge, and experience in discussing problems that arose about cases, and her clear mind was the greatest help to me and to other practitioners. Her integrity, too, shone out, and, once convinced that a cause was right, she would follow it through, however unpopular and at whatever cost to herself. Perhaps few people respected her as a specialist knew the simple generous woman underneath, but, of those who did, many had reason to thank her for her practical sympathy and help. Others will have enjoyed her hospitality and her delight in the countryside and wild places. And how many of us, when faced with a long fatal illness, would start to write a book and leave it so nearly finished that friends could see it into print? We who were privileged to see her during that illness will not easily forget the inspiration she gave us; and the wide circle of friends she leaves behind, of every age and from every walk in life, will feel the better for having met her.

Some of you will remember that convoy of Americans that blundered into Royaumont by mistake in July 1918. The officers were in the little ward—Jeanne, was it?—on the left of the entrance, and were under my care. If anyone remembers young Lieutenant Heckman of the U.S. Marines, I wish they would let me know. I can call him to mind only vaguely, such was the chaos of that time. But there seems no doubt that I was his authentic redhead.

It took me quite a time to realise that I was being invited to fly to Hollywood to appear in the broadcast as top surprise for Mr. Heckman. However I will try anything once, and a fortnight later, after a thrilling flight across the Atlantic and the American continent, I came to earth at Los Angeles Airport, where I was met by a glamorous young woman who drove me to the hotel in Hollywood where I was to spend four days in utter luxury as the guest of "This is your Life."

The others taking part in the broadcast were converging there from all over the States. There were Mr. Heckman's wife and daughter, and a number of people with whom he had worked at various times, including his former sergeant of Marines who took part under him in a very gallant action for which both men had received the Croix de Guerre and the American Navy Cross in 1918. It was a most congenial and friendly party, in which I felt immediately at home. Mr. Heckman himself, all unsuspecting and believing his family to be thousands of miles away, was occupied with Red Cross business in Los Angeles, together with a colleague who was to inveigle him into the live audience on the night of the show.

On that night, two days later, our party was assembled backstage behind a curtain in a fantastic Victorian theatre festooned with arc lamps and cameras. Mr. Heckman, we were relieved to see, was in the audience, and when we went on the air, and the compère invited him up to the empty stage, he gave himself up to the game with a good grace. As his life was reconstructed, our little company behind the curtain diminished as one after another stepped on to the stage at the appropriate moment. Mr. Heckman could not have played up better if he had been coached in his part. "What did you feel like," asked the compère, "when you found yourself in a hospital run by women?" "I thought my last chance had gone," was the reply. "But were you well looked after?" "Indeed I was, by a bit of a redhaired girl who wouldn't let anyone take my leg off." That seemed to be my cue, but the compère was too clever to fall for the obvious; he passed on to the next episode, leaving me behind the curtain, finally alone. At last, by a cunning twist, I was brought on by way of the great blood-transfusion centre organised by Mr. Heckman in New York. "You could have done with some of that blood yourself, long ago at Royaumont" I said from behind the curtain. Mr. Heckman looked puzzled, naturally enough. "That is a voice" said the compère "that you have not heard for thirty-eight years. And now, after the greatest woman-hunt 'This is your Life' has ever staged, here is your doctor of Royaumont, brought from Dorset, England." I had the welcome of my life as I stepped on to the stage.

That ended the programme, and a wonderful

dinner party followed, complete with speeches. I was sad when it was all over, for it had been great fun; but the best was yet to come. The Heckmans invited me to their home in New York, and of all the fine things they showed me in that beautiful city, nothing was more impressive than their charming hospitality. They took me also to their country home in the mountains up the Hudson River, a magnificent old farmhouse where the rooms are lined with English books. And wherever I went, their friends greeted me with, "But we know you already, we've heard of you all our lives."

So America has come alive for me, and I see it now as a beautiful and welcoming country where there are many friends whom I look forward to meeting again. Thank you, Royaumont!

10 Black Street, Middle Brighton S.5,
Victoria.

My dear Madame Editor, 24th August, 1956

Having read in the last News-Letter, with rather a feeling of dismay, that some members of the Royaumont and V.C. Association have suggested that it might be time to dissolve it, I hope this letter is not too late to add my views to that of others. Although so far away I have always received with the greatest pleasure all news of the Association's members and their reunions, at which I had hoped to belong ere now, had a second war not intervened. Even if the reunions dwindled to a meeting of a mere handful of members it would seem to me worth while to maintain these to the very latest date possible. Time inevitably must lessen our numbers, but nothing, I think, need efface the happy memories of our companionship, despite the tragic times we worked in, at both Royaumont and Cotterêts. And seeing the Scottish members have very practically arranged meetings in their homeland, that must enable many to be present and preserve old friendships, when the journey up to London might have been a disadvantage to them. I hope to hear later that all of you who edit and compile the News-Letter will receive evidence from a majority of members that your efforts are much appreciated (and also those who arrange the reunions), and that very many of us would deeply regret a discontinuance of your activities. It might interest you to know that last month I was asked to give a "Causerie" to the French circle of the Lyceum Club, so I chose "Les Dames Ecossaises à l'abbaye de Royaumont" as my subject. I was very nervous but after an hour's talk I found an old French lady had been to Royaumont not long ago, since it became a centre de culture, and she and I had a long chat about its beauties. To my dismay I was invited to repeat my efforts later, but I really think I should avoid the task, I find it rather nerve wracking, especially as one member interrupts continually asking for translations of any word or phrase beyond her knowledge of French.

I note that you have been out in this country not long ago, and I wonder how much you saw of it. Towns are not interesting in a new land, but there are usually few visitors who are taken to see pastoral life in the country which is on a larger scale than in Great Britain and different in some ways.

Please accept my best wishes and remembrances to all members who remember me.

(E. M.) FIGGIS

Yugoslav Hospitals Re-visited

by Lady Hutton

I have just returned from a tour of Yugoslavia, made at the invitation of its Government, and it may be of interest to record some of my impressions. In order, however, that they may be the better assessed, it seems necessary to tell what led me to that country for the first time.

Many must still remember the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the women who served with this fine organisation during the First World War. Some of them are no more, but there are a number of us left who think with pride of the founder, our chief, Dr. Elsie Inglis, who brought into being hospitals completely staffed by women long before the Women's Naval, Army, and Air Force Services were even conceived.

Epic Serbian Retreat

The original aim was to aid the British Army, and within a few weeks of the outbreak of war, fully equipped and staffed hospitals were offered to the War Office but were firmly refused. This was a great disappointment, but it was at once decided to offer them to our Allies, with the result that by December 1914 the S.W.H. were working in Belgium and France, and the first unit was on its way to Serbia. A year later, there were many Scottish Women's Hospitals working there, and some took part in the epic Serbian retreat across the Albanian mountains "peshke" (on foot) in bitter weather, while those in the north were taken prisoner, and we in the south trekked through Macedonia to Salonika. Though not a member of the first hospital unit, I was the very last to leave, having served with the S.W.H., like many others, for over five years. We thus came to know and admire the Serbian soldier, bravest of the brave, and to speak his language.

I had not altogether lost touch with the country, being chairman of "The Serbian (Yugoslav) Medical Women's Scholarship Fund," which, for the past 30 years has financed women doctors for post-graduate study in England. Nevertheless I knew little or nothing about conditions in their country, since out of deference for their political opinions they were never asked leading questions.

When invited to tour Yugoslavia to inspect their hospitals and health centres I accepted with a certain reluctance, for my allegiance had been to the Royalist refugees in England and to the Mihailovitch party and I disliked in principle its present regime. After 40 years I could not expect to meet those gay young warriors with whom we had endured and striven in war and laughed with and danced the "Kolo" in peace, but hoped to see.

I was at first completely disoriented, for there was so little that I remembered and all trace of my old hospital had gone. The fact is that the town had suffered such a heavy bombardment that

the streets had been widened and much of it rebuilt, so that at first the fortress and the buildings round the old palace were my only landmarks in a sea of tall modern buildings.

Early next morning I had talks with the genial Director for Co-operation with International Health Organisations and with the President of Public Health, who told me that there are now 8,500 doctors, of which a third are women, whereas there had only been a matter of hundreds in the First World War, of which one-third died early in 1915 from typhus. The women doctors enjoy absolute equality with the men, every post being open to them, and many are university professors, heads of hospitals and public health departments. Nearly all of them are married and have children, being allowed leave for their confinements without dislocation of their professional career.

Nursing Training

There was no training in nursing till some thirty years ago when, with much outside assistance, several schools were begun, but there was great difficulty in getting well-educated young women to undertake the two years training required; the situation is steadily improving but there is some way to go before the necessary standard is reached. A welcome arrangement has been made with the Ministry of Health to place the more promising of the trained nurses in English hospitals for one year, and their number will be increased if circumstances are favourable.

I visited all the Belgrade hospitals, of which I had previously known several, though they had been modernised almost out of all recognition. At the Fever Hospital I was met by Dr. Kosta Todorovitch, whom I had known as a young captain on the Salonika front and who was now the doyen of the medical profession and a man universally beloved and trusted. The Professor said that the Scottish women had been a very considerable factor in the freeing of Yugoslavia and that those who had known the hospitals and their personnel would never forget the debt they owed to Scotland.

The hospital that I had most looked forward to visiting was that which the Edinburgh and London Committees of the S.W.H. built after the First World War, and gave to the medical women of Yugoslavia. It now forms one of a series of pavilions in a general hospital at Dedinje, on the outskirts of Belgrade. It is a handsome Colonial-style building for 180 beds, and I had been pondering whether to request its return to the women doctors, but when I met its large feminine staff I saw that they were already in possession of it!

I soon found, however, that no one in the hospital knew its history, and this did not surprise me, for memories, in the nature of things, are short the world over. Even in Scotland little is remembered of the many doctors, nurses and orderlies who gave their services, and some their lives, to Serbia, or of its modest, capable committee, of whom only one survives, Dr. Beatrice Russell, who from a small office in St. Andrew Square sent hospitals to France, Belgium, Russia, and Serbia. I told the company who were gathered in the wide entrance hall that there was no "spomen" (memorial tablet) to be seen, only

huge war canvases right and left, and these, I was assured, had always been there.

I asked them to look behind the picture on the left. Eager hands rushed to bring it down, and there was the white tablet, fresh and clear for all to read: "Erected by the united work of British and Serbian women in thankfulness for the memory of Dr. Elsie Inglis, who gave her life for Serbia and the honour of her own country." I said that I trusted that this Elsie Inglis pavilion would ever stand for good-will between our countries, and they replied by crying "Jivela" (long may it live).

My request to spend a day in Vranja was greeted with amusement, as "there is nothing to see there," but when I explained that it would be in the nature of a pilgrimage, since I had spent two years there as C.O. of the American Unit of the S.W.H., they understood at once. Ours was

the first hospital to be set up in the liberated South Serbia and we remained there till the work was finished and the typhus epidemic was over. The town was quite unchanged and many of the old friends with whom we had been through so much were still in the same little Turkish houses. They welcomed me in the old familiar endearing terms as they laughed and cried, kissed me, and pressed upon me flowers and fruit from their gardens.

The one new building in Vranja was a fine hospital for 2250 beds built on the site of a house which we had equipped as a fifty-bedded hospital on leaving Serbia, for we knew how greatly needed medical and surgical help was, and now the townspeople and the inhabitants of the many surrounding villages are well served.

The above is the first of two articles.

NOTICES and ACCOUNTS

Luncheon Account

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Sept. 1956: In hand ...	5	2	0	Stamps ...	1	4	0
Sale of tickets and Donations ...	10	8	6	Lunch ...	7	19	6
				Hire of Room ...	1	1	0
	£15	10	6		£10	4	6
January, 1957. In hand ...	£5	6	0				

From D. Carey Morgan.

Hon. Treasurer's Statement of Accounts for Year ending December 31st, 1956

Payments	£	s.	d.	Receipts	£	s.	d.
Wembley Press Ltd, Newsletter ...	19	1	9	Balance in hand, 1st January, 1956 ...	80	1	5
Postage Newsletter ...	14	0		P.O. Interest for 1955 ...	1	15	2
Stamps, Hon. Treasurer ...	18	0		Subscriptions ...	22	19	0
				Donations ...	1	10	6
Balance in hand, 31st December, 1956	85	12	4				
	£106	6	1		£106	6	1

ANGELA HILLS, Hon. Treasurer

Hon. Treasurer's Note

The Receipts Total of £106 6s. 1d. includes subscriptions for future years, paid in advance, amounting to £15 12s. 0d.

Emergency Loan Fund

October, 1956

The Royaumont Association Emergency Loan Fund has made two grants during the last year and has received four donations which were much appreciated. The balance in hand is at the moment £234 3s. 5d. and the interest for 1955 amounts to £6 17s. 11d.

R. MIDDLETON

Donations for 1956

We are most grateful to the following members who have so kindly sent donations to the Royaumont Association and to the Emergency Loan Fund: Mrs. Crowther (Macnaughton), Miss E. M. Figgis, Dr. Henry, Miss M. Miller, Miss M. Moor, Sister Rose-Morris, Dr. Stein.

Changes of Address 1956

Sister Adam Mrs. Bushby: 22 Renters Avenue, Hendon, N.W.4.

Anderson Lady Blood and
Anderson Miss A. L.: Glovers, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

Don Miss Gretta: Maulesden, Brechin, Angus.

McPherson Mrs. C. R. Bruce: 33 Hamilton Drive, Glasgow, W.2.

Smæton Lady Sanderson: The Lygon Arms, Broadway, Worcestershire.

Torrance Miss J. G.: Glen House, North Berwick, East Lothian, Scotland.

Young Miss M. A.: Portway, 49 Candlemas Lane, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

A Correction:—

Peter Madame Campora, Route de St. Hippolyte, Mascara, Dep. d'Oran, Algeria.

The London Reunion and General Meeting

A most successful luncheon was held at the Service Womens' Club, 52 Lower Sloans Street, London on Friday 3rd October, 1956. There were about twenty-eight members present and regrets and apologies for absence were received from the following all of whom sent good wishes for the success of the party. Smieton, Sister Rose-Morris, Stewart, Leishman, Day, Richmond, Ramsay Smith, Johnstone, Paley B. Bruce, Moor, Don, Dow Stables, Young, Collum Thorne, Carter McLeod and Dr. Henry. We had an excellent lunch served at little tables for four in a nice panelled dining-room, afterwards we went to the Coffee room which we had to ourselves. We have to thank Young for kindly supplying cigarettes and Carter, Howard-Smith and Johnson for Cider Cup, all much appreciated.

At the General meeting held after coffee, Miss Nicholson our President was in the chair. Middleton gave a report on the result of the questionnaire about continuing the Association or not. Forty-nine slips were returned all in favour of carrying on the Association including five others given verbally. The Committee accepted with much regret the resignation of our Hon. Secretary Middleton, and elected Barbara Johnson who had kindly agreed to take her place. We missed our Hon. Treasurer Carter who owing to a sprained ankle was unable to be present her report was read for her.

EDITOR

From Far and Near

Anderson F. (Mrs. Longrigg). It was nice to meet Anderson at the Reunion, and to hear all about her family. She has a clever son who writes plays etc. for the B.B.C., and like many of us she has a very full and busy life.

Banks (Mrs. Simmonds) writes that she met Rolt at Ambleside in the autumn. "Miller I see, and she gives me any Royaumont news, and Stewart lives only fifteen miles away."

Barclay (Mrs. Golding) writes most interesting letters from Southern Rhodesia, and it is good to know that her health is better. I asked her if she remembered her pet birds at Royaumont and how one of them called "Louis" died when everything was frozen hard and so had to be burned in the incinerator. I can recall her pretty tear-stained face as she rushed through the passages with the dead bird. She writes "Yes I do remember Louis I belong nowadays to the Ornithological Society, and one of our aims is to stop the export of our birds." Her daughter Elizabeth lives within a hundred miles of her mother and has two children, "both are adorable" their grandmother says.

Burrard (Mrs. Dashwood) writes; "I should be very sorry if the Royaumont Association was ended. I would gladly help with secretarial work but my typewriter is very old."

Collum although still in hospital writes that she is slowly improving, and all concerned say that it is her pluck and determination that have helped to carry her through. Certainly we missed her very much at our Reunion, and send her best wishes.

Churchill (Mrs. Latham) writing to Collum says. "We had such a nice Royaumont luncheon I wish you had been there. We had little tables which I think was an improvement as we could really talk, and then we had coffee upstairs."

Day B. writes to the Hon. Treasurer. "I think it would be a great pity to wind up the Association. I am always most interested in the News Letter and hearing all about those I knew during the time I spent at Royaumont. I have not attended a Reunion since 1938. I think it is wonderful how you all have managed to carry on the Association all these years, and I hope it will continue."

Jamieson in sending back her slip from the News Letter hopes that the Association will not be allowed to lapse, she says; "I was asked recently to give a short talk on something worth while to our Women's Guild, and gave some incidents of our life at Royaumont. I was very much surprised at the great interest shown by the audience and they have asked for more. The sisters of the late Nora Neilson have come to live here. I went to see them and saw some striking sketches and a wonderful painting of the Cloisters. Scotland lost a fine artist by her untimely death. We have also a Mrs. Hedderwick living here she was a very early kitchen orderly I just can't remember her name."

Macnaughton (Mrs. Crowther) writes to Carter "I am so sorry I cannot be at the Luncheon this year and hope very much that it will be decided to keep the Association going. The News Letter is so full of interest I am grateful to you Mackay and others who do so much to give us all pleasure and keep the flag flying. The other day a Miss Carmichael called, sent by the Bishop's wife to ask my help at a Mission sale. I thought her face was familiar and asked her if she was at Royaumont in 1916. She smiled and said 'yes' and very soon we were laughing over my Album of photographs. There was Carmichael sitting on a box outside the back door doing the 'spuds' with a bevy of orderlies round her. She now lives

here in Edinburgh and I sent her away with a bundle of News Letters which she greatly enjoyed as she has lost touch with Royaumont for many years."

Miller writes; "I thought our Reunion a very happy one. We moved about more freely and seemed more sociable. It was nice to have the 'three Andies.' I thought too that the Club's catering and service were excellent. From the gourmet point of view I thought it was the best lunch we had had for years. Perhaps it was because of the small tables for four, they created a cosier feeling, if I may put it that way."

Moffet is anxious the Association should not close down she writes; "Personally I am quite content with things as they are. The only thing I feel is that we are so far away from headquarters that we cannot undertake any of the duties involved, and should be very grateful to those in and around London who so nobly carry on. We in Scotland have had some very happy reunions from time to time which is nice for us when we cannot manage the long and now very expensive journey south. I wish the Royaumont Association the best of luck and many more years of activity and life."

Peter (Mme Campora) writing from Algeria says "I should be terribly sorry if the Association came to an end. I always look forward to the News Letter."

Ramsay Smith writing to Middleton in June says. "I still feel that London is the best centre for overseas members and even for our home members, as many are more likely to be passing through London than through Edinburgh or Glasgow."

We are sorry to hear that Ramsay has been ill but glad to know she is better and hope to see her at our next Reunion.—*Editor*.

Sister Rose-Morris in a letter to our Hon. Secretary suggests that as the Association "originated in Scotland and many members live up here also many south of the Border would it not be possible to have a luncheon or tea party in each town? As costs to-day are prohibitive, rail fares costly plus incidental expenses many members feel they cannot afford the expense for so short a time even if hospitality is forthcoming. I see the cost of producing the News Letter is 2s. 6d. (per copy) and I feel sure members could manage the extra cost to ensure safe delivery and production. Sorry I am not an organiser but I am willing to fall in with any suggestions for the future benefit of our beloved Royaumont Association."

Dr. Savill writes of the Reunion; "I wish the Coffee Room had been a little bigger so that one could have moved about and talked to people . . . I think we had a most delightful meeting and much larger than I had expected."

Simms writing from Sidney, Australia, says she expects to return to England next July.

Stables writing from Argyllshire to Morgan says: "How I wish I could come to the Lunch of the Association. I am running kennels and breed Samoyeds and Cocker spaniels, and show them. I also have boarding kennels so it is very difficult to get away unless for shows."

Thorne (Mrs. Newton) who, was not able to be at the Royaumont meeting writes. "Merrylees was here three weeks ago looking so well and wonderfully active. I think she finds Harborne Hall rather dull but the quieter life has rejuvenated her."