

# Royaumont News-Letter



Vol. II.

APRIL, 1930.

No. 3.

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, Well Bottom, East Melbury, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

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

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

**President:** Mrs. Ivens Knowles, C.B.E., M.S. (Lond.)

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

**Chairman:** Miss Etta Inglis.

**Hon. Secretary:** Mrs. Sanderson.

**Hon. Treasurer:** Miss 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

### Mrs. Knowles and the Unit's Gift to Her

Writing on March 31st your Editor still feels rather as though the great event of the 1st were a dream. The news we publish on p. 4 burst on the Unit quite suddenly, in that column of the *Times* headed "Forthcoming Engagements," and as the wedding was to take place in six weeks' time, the Committee of the Association, which met soon afterwards, realised that there would not be time to get out even a special edition of the *News-Letter* that would reach members quickly enough to enable them to join in the wedding present that it was felt the entire Unit would wish to give their Chief. So the Chairman and Hon. Treasurer decided to circularize the Unit unofficially, and, thanks to the strings which Tollit was able to pull, the

printed postcard (which was evidently the first intimation of the forthcoming wedding that many of our members received) was despatched within 24 hours of the decision being made. It will be understood that it was quite impossible to tell members of the Unit what form the gift would take, at such an early stage. Inglis, who acted as Treasurer, was kept busy for a month, acknowledging and banking the cheques and postal orders that rolled in daily. People of whom we had practically lost sight wrote saying that they must join in this. It was a wonderful demonstration of the esteem and affection in which our Chief was held by all who had served under her. There must have been about 140 subscribers all told, and doubtless there would have been still more if we could have traced everybody. It was a problem what to give la Colonelle, for she already possessed a houseful of furniture, and we learned

from the picture press that Mr. Charles Knowles also possessed a furnished house near Truro and a furnished flat in London. The general vote of all those whom there was an opportunity of consulting was for something personal, something beautiful, something that could not be listed in the category of "a useful present," and something that Miss Ivens could feel was the concentrated expression of her Unit's affection and good wishes. It was decided that a small diamond ornament which could be worn on any occasion, and in several different ways, would best meet the case—with a sapphire, for choice, to set it off. Whitehorn now was of the greatest service. Her father is a well-known wholesale diamond merchant who, with Mrs. Whitehorn, has a great regard for Royaumont and Royaumont's Médecin-Chef. Mr. Whitehorn knew of exactly the pendant that would suit. It had been sent up to a Midland town for a prospective customer to see. He telephoned an order that it was to be sent back to London on the next train. When seen by Inglis and a few others it was pronounced to be exactly what was wanted, and Inglis, as representing old Royaumontites, was given the full trade discount allowed to wholesale purchasers, thus more than doubling the value of the jewels which the money available would have purchased in the retail market. The Unit is very grateful indeed to Mr. Whitehorn for thus increasing the value of the gift old Royaumontites were enabled to give to their Chief. The pendant is about the size of a half-crown, circular in outline, with small, brilliant stones set in a very pretty design in white gold, with a sapphire in the centre, and it can be worn either on a chain, as a brooch, or on a pin as a hair ornament. With the subscriptions from overseas, which are still coming in, Inglis hopes to be able to get a chain to match. It was felt that Miss Ivens would wish to know the names of those who gave her this gift, so Tollit again helped by getting a beautiful little leather album, with the super-scription tooled in gold, and inside it Inglis pasted the signatures from the letters which had accompanied the subscriptions. Those who handed their money in personally were approached, afterwards, for their signatures to be added, Inglis taking the album away from Mrs. Knowles again after the presentation!

As Tollit and Inglis were unable to keep their promise of letting so many subscribers know what form the gift would take, by writing individually to each one, readers will not object to so much space being taken up about it in the *News-Letter*, which, on this very special occasion, is being sent to all who subscribed, whether they belong to the Association or not.

#### Royaumont Operation Table for S.W.H. Memorial Ward, Royal Free

At the 8th Annual Meeting of the Scottish Women's Hospitals' Association of the Royal Free Hospital on December 3rd, 1929, a number of purses were presented to the Duchess of York, President of the Association, for, among other objects, the equipment of the Scottish Women's Hospitals Memorial Ward to be included in the Queen Mary Wing of the new Maternity Block, together with the name-plates of the two remaining Beds ("Edith Palliser" and "Serbian Units") endowed by that Association to complete the Ward of eight beds (one of which was endowed by them "In memory of the Royaumont Unit"). A replica had been made of the name-plate fixed on the Operation Table, which, as readers will recall from our last issue, our own Association subscribed for in time to be presented at this meeting, thus anticipating the actual opening of the Memorial Ward out of consideration for Professor MacIlroy, whose need for a new table was urgent and immediate. This name-plate was inscribed as follows:—

Presented to  
The Scottish Women's Hospitals  
Memorial Ward  
By  
The Royaumont and Villers-Cotterets  
Unit  
Of  
The Scottish Women's Hospitals  
(Old Comrades' Association)  
December 3rd, 1929.

Our President handed this to the Duchess of York on our behalf. Members will be glad to see from Miss Ivens's account that the money was all collected, and the table purchased and paid for up to time without our having to get up a *Matinée* or hold a Rummage Sale! The operation table was a model specified by Professor MacIlroy and personally selected by our Chief at the Showrooms of the makers, Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, Ltd. It is known as the St. Bart's Operation Table, and is mounted on a specially constructed heavy base with large ball bearings, the framework being of heavy steel tube with gun-metal bearings, whilst the table top is made from a polished non-corrodible white metal. The price (Hospital discount) was £91 4s. 0d., including the plate. Two Resolutions carried unanimously during the business part of the meeting will be of interest to members of our Association. They were as follow:—

(a) That the Scottish Women's Hospitals' Association of the Royal Free Hospital, having completed the

Memorial which it was founded in 1921 to create, shall in future be known as The Royal Free Hospital Scottish Women's Hospitals' Memorial Association.

(b) That the Association under its new name shall exist to provide Annual Maintenance for the eight Memorial Beds in the Scottish Women's Hospitals' Memorial Ward at the Royal Free Hospital.

These two Resolutions were moved by Lady Barrett and seconded by our own President. In an official circular letter to its members which the Organizing Secretary of the Royal Free Hospital S.W.H. Memorial Association sent to your Editor for our own Association's information, she wrote: "My Committee very much hope that they may count on your continued interest in the work of the Association which they have in the past so greatly appreciated. I am to add that it was by the wish and with the approval of H.R.H. The Duchess of York that the slight change in the name of the Association was made. The cost of providing maintenance for the S.W.H. Memorial Beds will be about £800 a year, while for the maintenance of the Maternity Centre, in connection with the Maternity Unit, we provide £1,000 a year. It is suggested that for cheques the shortened form 'R.F.H. Scottish Women's Hospitals' Memorial Association' be used."

Professor MacIlroy, who went to Liverpool for our Chief's wedding, and did the old Royaumontites the honour of taking tea at their table at the Reception, remarked to your Editor that she, personally, had always wished for this slight alteration in the name of the Association which she founded. We trust that our own members will not forget that although this Memorial to the Scottish Women's Hospitals is now completed so far as provision for building and equipment is concerned, those eight named Beds—of which one specially commemorates the work of our own Unit—will require £800 per annum to maintain. Lady Moira Combe is the Hon. Treasurer, and the address of the R.F.S.W.H. Memorial Assocn. is 24, Mecklenburgh Square, W.C.1. Donations may be earmarked for the Royaumont Bed.

#### Our Emergency Loan Fund

The way is now clear for our own Association to make a real effort to place this Fund of ours on a secure basis. The idea of a *Matinée* of Cicely Hamilton's play has gone by the board, for a reason for which we can only congratulate her—she has sold the play she intended to offer to us! A *Matinée* of a straight stage piece, moreover, is a heavy undertaking for such a small body as our Unit's old comrades' association. The

Committee of the Association, with our President's hearty approval, communicated by letter, therefore intends to modify its plans, and to try to get up a Variety Entertainment in London, and to suggest to local centres, where two or three old Royaumontites are gathered together, that they, too, should try to "raise the wind" in some fashion which would not involve us in seeking charity. In other words, the idea is to "give value for money," and merely to help the exchange along by reminding old friends of the S.W.H. that the health and strength of some of the S.W.H. veterans are giving out, and that the Royaumont Association's Emergency Loan Fund is an honourable means of giving a helping hand in an emergency in a manner in which it can be honourably accepted. It may be left to local groups to devise their own means of raising money and of obtaining publicity. But for London, the capital, something more ambitious is required. If a big Variety Entertainment is eventually decided upon, it will probably be found expedient to turn the organization of it over to a professional organizer on a commission basis. This is the way that many big Shows for objects such as ours, as well as for charities, are got up, but not even a professional organizer can make a success of a Show without the backing of the Association for which she undertakes to organize a money-raising scheme. Something, too, can be done if every member makes up her mind personally to raise a definite sum for the Fund during the year. Cubs might well be enlisted to help, for they must all be very proud of the Unit in which their mothers served during the Great War.

#### The Royaumont Exhibit for the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, War Section

The Hon. Secretary (your Editor) thanks those who have offered, or in special circumstances have been obliged to send, objects for this exhibit. Young has sent (because she was moving house) her chauffeur's uniform. Ramsay has offered the loan of summer and winter uniforms of our Officier gestionnaire and her Red Cross brassard; a letter from the French Embassy in 1916, a *Permis de Séjour*, Identification Paper, *Carnet d'Etranger* of the G.Q.G., all of 1916; an *Ordre de Mission* and a *Leave Paper*, 1918; a copy of Marshal Foch's Message to the Allied Armies, 12th November, 1918; a letter from M. de Piéssac from the Ministère de la Guerre, and *Registre de l'Effectif des Malades*, 1918; also a collection of photographs by local photographers, and a case of broken scalpels penetrated by a piece of shrapnel at Creil, where they had been sent to be



Mr. & Mrs. KNOWLES on the Cathedral Steps, with Mr. Dick Ivens, Best Man, and the Royaumont Guard of Honour.

sharpened. Sister Flett has sent the most interesting objects of all: a French *bidon*, perforated by a bullet, and an African-made knife given to her by a Senegalese. This knife has never been cleaned. The French native troops used them in "cleaning up the trenches." These two exhibits exactly fulfil the function of objects calculated to illustrate the equipment and methods of the troops with which our Hospital Unit served. Have not others of the Sisters got similar treasures—treasures in the sense of historical illustrations—packed away somewhere? Offers of objects, papers, or photographs, should be sent to Collum, Well Bottom, East Melbury, Shaftesbury, Dorset, listed on a separate sheet of paper for filing purposes. Articles themselves should not be sent, except in special circumstances, until they are asked for. They take up a lot of space and would all have to be transported back to London when the collection is complete.

### Engagement and Marriage of Our President

From *The Times* of January 8th, 1930.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Charles Matthew Knowles, barrister-at-law, of 47, St. Mary's-mansions, London, and Killagorden, Truro, and Frances Ivens, C.B.E., Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, M.S.Lond., of 15, Gambier-terrace, Liverpool.

From *The Times* of March 3rd, 1930.

The marriage took place in the Lady Chapel, Liverpool Cathedral, on Saturday of Mr. Charles Matthew Knowles, barrister-at-law, of 47, St. Mary's-mansions, London, and Killagorden, Cornwall, and Miss Frances Ivens, C.B.E., Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, M.S.Lond., of 15, Gambier-terrace, Liverpool. Arch-

deacon G. J. Howson and the Rev. Gossage Robinson officiated. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. Howard Ivens, wore a gown of mastic reversible satin beauté with a vest of lace, finished with a buckle of diamanté and stones to match. She wore a coat of the same colour, trimmed with putty-coloured fox, and carried a cathedral hymnal, the gift of Archdeacon and Mrs. Howson. She was attended by her niece, Miss Kathleen Ivens, who carried the bride's bouquet of flame-coloured tulips and white heather, and who wore a gown of apricot georgette, and brown Bangkok hat. Mr. Clifford Howard Ivens was best man, and a guard of honour was formed by the members of the Royaumont Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals who served in France under the command of the bride, and by nurses of the various Liverpool hospitals with which she is associated. A reception was held afterwards at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. The bride also entertained some 250 of her hospital patients in the refectory of the Cathedral. The honeymoon will be spent in the South of France, and the bride travelled in a dress and coat of fawn suiting with a racoon fur and a lacquer red hat.

### The Wedding

On the last day of February Matron Winstanley, Ramsay Smith, and the Robin, from Scotland, and Salway, from Torquay, travelled by train to Liverpool, whilst Inglis and Young took a twelve hours' run from London by motor-coach, and your Editor went by road from Dorset to Bristol, and thence on by train (meeting Salway on board). Wendy and Merrylees came up by train on Saturday morning, the same train bringing Dame Louise MacIlroy, Dr. Octavia Lewin and Miss Welstead. It was not a very large gathering of the clans, but it was representative both of the various ranks of the Unit and geographically. The Chairman of Committee, Royaumont Association, bore with her the Unit's token of affection and good wishes in the shape of their wedding gift and the album containing over one hundred names of subscribers—a list that, perforce, left out those from overseas whose good wishes were to arrive later and be added to it.

After a hilarious dinner at Miss Nicholson's for those whom she and her friend, Tozer's sister, were putting up, the Colour Party, so to speak, repaired to 15 Gambier Terrace, where the presentation was made to Miss Ivens, and her health and that of the bridegroom drunk in champagne. We were then invited upstairs to the drawing-room to meet the Family and view the Presents. These would require a volume to catalogue, and they had been arranged in departments—a table for cut crystal, another for Lalique glass, another for Silver, and so on. Royaumont retired at about half past eleven, leaving the Family in possession, and Miss Ivens still not having begun to pack! When Royaumont went to bed is not recorded.

On Saturday morning Liverpool was draped in the grimmest of black fogs. But Miss Ivens' luck held, and the sun came out and dispelled it as we started off for

the Cathedral. The Cathedral stands just below Gambier Terrace, and at the top of the hill up which straggle some of the poorest streets in the city. The road below the Cathedral was arranged as a parking place for cars, but the pavements and steps were packed with a seething mass of Liverpool's Poor—among which must have been hundreds of Miss Ivens' patients. Royaumont fought its way through, and, once inside the door of the Lady Chapel, Miss Nicholson, who was Master of the Ceremonies (assisted by three of the best-looking young male surgeons Liverpool could muster), ushered us to the special pews reserved for us in the choir stalls, where we faced the Family. The Chapel is supposed to hold 250 people, and Dr. Joyce (whom Royaumontites will remember when she visited us in 1915 with Miss Foley), who shared with Miss Nicholson the task of apportioning seats, triumphantly packed in about 50 more—and still had two seats to spare.

The Lady Chapel is very beautiful, and the narrow gallery was furnished right round the building by a frieze of Nurses in uniform, which set off its arches wonderfully well. They were contingents from all Miss Ivens' Hospitals. The Order of Service was fully choral, and began with Smart's *Con Moto Moderato*, and Hollins' *Benediction Nuptiale* on the organ, and the Anthem "Saviour, Who in Thine own image" (Cornelius), followed by Brahms' Slow Movement from the Violin Concerto in D, on the organ, and the Hymn "Thine for Ever, God of Love." The bride and bridegroom stood or knelt alone in the wide space before the altar, in full view of the congregation, for there are neither rails nor screen in the Chapel. After the actual ceremony and the signing of the register, the Archdeacon of Warrington, an old friend, "spoke to the people" simply and unaffectedly, referring to the fine work Miss Ivens had done, and then, addressing her directly, said: "In this gracious shrine of noble women and high courage, you will be amongst them in our hearts. With all the sincerity of North Country folks and in the Name of God we wish you 'Good Luck'." It was the most charming and sincere "God Speed" that any of us had ever heard on such an occasion, and it was silently echoed very sincerely by all present.

During the singing of the final anthem, Bach's "O be Joyful in God," Miss Nicholson led the Royaumont contingent of the Guard of Honour up the aisle and out to the steps, the Archdeacon bidding the rest of the congregation be seated. Outside, we formed up beyond and below the Nurses' Contingents already marshalled by Miss Joyce, to keep a way from the Cathedral doors to the car, and we had some ado to resist the pressure from behind of the excited crowd.

Presently a woman fainted, and some of the stronger elements, seeing another woman, holding a baby, being nearly crushed, called out: "Ere, mind the Baby! Make way for the Baby!" As the struggling mother pushed her way to the front, she held her baby high in her arms, and informed the crowd: "Yes, this 'ere Baby wouldn't 'a bin 'ere if it 'adn't bin for 'ER!" Delighted applause from the crowd, especially the Maternity Patients!

A sudden wild rush up the centre of our avenue by about a dozen Press photographers and a cinema operator warned us that the bride and bridegroom were coming. We linked arms and leaned back on the crowd, digging our toes in. The astonished Merrylees had a reporter's hat flung to her with a desperate appeal

to "Hold this!"; a few more hats were kicked about among the struggling feet. There was a roar of cheering, and "Mrs. Knowles" appeared, on the arm of the bridegroom, and smilingly stood at the top of the steps whilst dozens of cameras clicked. Then, to a united cry from Royaumont of "Vive la Colonelle!" they passed down, through our ranks, to their car, and we broke and fled to our cars, for the order was to go at top speed to the Adelphi—to have our photograph taken with the bride before the Reception!

Your Editor was among those taken in Tozer's Sunbeam, driven furiously by Dr. Duval, and Royaumont was there, all eleven of us, by the time the bride appeared after her flying visit to the Refectory where her patients were being entertained. A wide corridor in the hotel had been railed off, and the Union Jack and the Tricolour from Royaumont had been hung up on the wall for a background, and here, after the bride and bridegroom had been photographed together, the Royaumont Group was arranged. When it was discovered by Mrs. Knowles that we made just thirteen, the photograph was not allowed to be taken, no matter how sincerely Merrylees counted up and made first twelve and then fourteen, nor how much the rest of us urged that "thirteen" was Royaumont's lucky number! Messengers were sent post haste to find (a) the French Consul, (b) Professor MacIlroy, and (c) the Bridesmaid, and eventually we were all taken together.

Then the bride had to take up her stand to receive the Guests, and her hand must have ached before she got through, for there were something like 500 of them. It was a wonderful Reception. The big ballroom was packed. The Mayor and Mayoress were there, and the dressmaker and modiste who made the bride's wedding garments. All medical Liverpool was there, and a great many of the Nurses from Miss Ivens' hospitals. Royaumont commandeered a table in a strategic position, and, as Mrs. Knowles afterwards remarked, when Royaumont was wanted it could not at first be found, because, as usual, it was eating! What Royaumont was wanted for, it should be added, was to receive from the bride's own hands the little allied flags with which the Wedding Cake was decorated, when the time came to cut it. There was one such favour for each Royaumontite.

Kathleen Ivens later whispered to us the time of the train by which the bride and bridegroom were going to London, so we presently slipped away and down to the station, where we took possession of the only first-class carriage that was empty and got the guard to lock it. As the train steamed out of the station your Editor thought of two other historic occasions when she had waited on a railway platform for Miss Ivens. The first was when the Royaumont Unit started off for France in November, 1914, at Victoria. The Unit was then all dressed in long grey ulsters and wide-brimmed grey felt hats, with facings and ribband of Gordon tartan. Miss Ivens had eliminated the green tartan from her uniform. Dr. Elsie Inglis was there, and accompanied the Unit as far as the boat. The other occasion was in 1919, when Miss Ivens and the last few members of the Unit came home for good. And now, in 1930—here was a little Royaumont group again—seeing Miss Ivens off—on her honeymoon!

Miss Nicholson had a Royaumont party that night at her flat. Merrylees had had to go back to London, but Phyllis Williams, who had been unable to get time off to come to the wedding, came over to Liverpool for

this. Tozer's sister and Dr. Duval, and Drs. Joyce and Foley also joined us. Every now and then we stole a glance at one another to make sure that it was not all a dream. We are such creatures of habit. La Colonelle seemed to belong so exclusively to Royaumont, to sit so much apart, to be so entirely the supreme and unique Head. And now, after two decades of professional work, at a time when she was beginning to toy with the idea of retiring from her honorary posts and her strenuous life in Liverpool, we had heard her, that very afternoon, making those solemn vows to obey . . . ! And we had watched her go out on a new adventure, start a new life, with as much zest as she had gone off to Royaumont in 1914. The Unit might perhaps have thought that now she had left us. But her Letter, below, shows that she takes us with her into her new life. Perhaps, in a way, we shall gain more of her. Your Editor remembers once, in a ship, in Kobe, when our Fleet was fêting the cementing of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, having a talk in the Captain's cabin of a cruiser now broken up. The subject of the talk was the extreme loneliness of the life of a Captain, and how he must always *make believe* to be entirely self-sufficing. We can now congratulate La Colonelle on being able to take off the mask, and we wish her many, many days of happiness in which to enjoy to the full the new and complete comradeship which is now hers.

### Letter from Our President

Tel. Welbeck 7444. 93, Harley Street,  
April 1st, 1930. London, W.1.

My dear Unit,—Words fail me when I try to express to you my thanks for the magnificent wedding present you have given me. It is most beautiful, but I value it, and shall value it, not only for its beauty and magnificence, but because it is you who have given it to me and because I know that it represents your love and affection, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I was very proud to wear your gift on my wedding day and so happy to know that fifteen members of my Unit were there to support me—in fact it gave me considerable confidence to have those present who had been with me on many other trying occasions!

We had a splendid sunny holiday at Beau-Vallon, and on our return did not fail to visit Royaumont (where I found it necessary to educate the caretaker), Monsieur Delacoste, who presented me with a most glorious bunch of Imperial violets, and also took tea with Michelet and Madame, who gave us a goûter worthy of Royalty. Michelet had recently become grand-père and was very proud of his new title.

I am hoping that as I shall now be living in London I shall see more of my Unit than I have been able to do before.

With renewed thanks,

Believe me,

Your affectionate chief,

FRANCES IVENS KNOWLES.

### 7th Annual General Meeting, Royaumont Association

The 7th Annual General Meeting to be held since the Association was organized with officers, headquarters address, and an executive committee, took place on November 30th last at 11 a.m., at 70 Victoria St., London, S.W.1, Inglis, who had been elected to that position at the previous annual meeting, acting as Chairman. There were present Miss Courtauld, Vice-President (who had resigned the Chairmanship the previous year), Miss Loudon, President of the Group in Scotland, Miss Nicholson, Vice-President and Dinner Secretary, Morgan, Berry, Jamieson, Westcombe, Dr. Hancock (Mrs. Barlett), Cowie, Arthur, Warren, Banks (Mrs. Simmonds), Wilson, Mackay, Tozer, Moffett, Collum, Hon. Editor, and Smieton (Mrs. Sanderson), Hon. Secretary. The Minutes of the previous annual meeting having been read and signed as correct, the Hon. Treasurer's Report was read by the Hon. Secretary, in the unavoidable absence of Tollit, the Hon. Treasurer, and passed. The Hon. Treasurer pointed out that the Balance Sheet gave a false air of prosperity to the finances of the Association, since, of the £37 8s. 8d. received since the last meeting, £24 8s. 0d. was sent by members who were voluntarily paying more than the minimum subscription of half-a-crown, whilst of the total receipts for the year, no less than £18 13s. 6d. was on account of subscriptions paid in advance for five years. Consequently, had all the members paid merely the minimum half-a-crown, the Association would be in very low water financially. The Hon. Treasurer asked the Meeting to digest this.

The Report having been passed, the existing Committee retired and was re-elected *en bloc* on the motion of Dr. Hancock, seconded by Miss Courtauld. Miss Courtauld's motion that Inglis should be re-elected Chairman for another year, seconded by Mackay, was also passed. The Committee now consists of the following members:—Mrs. Ivens Knowles, President; Miss Courtauld and Miss Nicholson, Vice-Presidents; Miss Loudon, President of Scottish Group; E. Inglis, Chairman of Executive Committee; Tollit, Hon. Treasurer; Smieton, Hon. Secretary; Miss Gray, Hon. Secretary, Scotland; Collum, Hon. Editor; Berry, Banks (Mrs. Simmonds), Tozer, Arthur, Dr. Martland, Merrylees, Mackay (Representative for Scotland).

The other business transacted concerned a possible change of headquarters [subsequent events have rendered this unnecessary], and some discussion on the lack of response to the appeal for offers of objects for the Royaumont exhibit in the War Section, Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, which is rendering the organization of the exhibit very difficult and causing much delay. The Chairman made a strong appeal to Members to write and tell the Hon. Secretary, Museum Exhibit Committee (Collum), what they could contribute towards a permanent exhibit illustrative of the organization, life and work of the Royaumont and V.C. Unit of the S.W.H. during its service with the French Army, the Museum being anxious to illustrate the work of women in the medical service of an allied army during war both on the official and the purely personal side. This concluded the business of the Meeting.

### Royaumont Association Balance Sheet, 1929

Income			
	£	s.	d.
Brought forward from 1928	...	...	31 14 4½
Subscriptions for 1929	...	...	37 8 8
Bank Interest	...	...	0 9 4
	£69	12	4½
Expenditure			
	£	s.	d.
Rent, H.Q. Address, &c.	...	...	5 5 0
Cost of two <i>News-Letters</i>	...	...	22 2 9
1,000 Special Envelopes for <i>News-Letter</i>	...	...	1 5 6
Postage	...	...	1 9 6
Stationery	...	...	0 1 4
Balance in hand	...	...	39 8 3½
	£69	12	4½

### Honorary Treasurer's Report

£16 has been received for the Emergency Loan Fund since the last balance.

The total membership of the Association [on 30th Nov. last] was 173, including one new member. [Two new members have since joined.]

The names of nine members have been taken off the Roll, as they have not paid any Subscription since 1927, in spite of two cards of reminder. There are sixteen members who have not paid their subscription for 1929, although they received a card of reminder last August.

F. M. TOLLIT,

27 Nov., 1929.

Hon. Treasurer.

### 11th Annual Dinner

The 11th Dinner was held on Saturday, Nov. 30th, 1929, at the Belgravia Hotel. Miss Ivens, C.B.E., M.S., received, and 64 were present.

Those present were:—Miss Ivens, Dr. Courtauld, Dr. Henry, Mrs. Savill, Dr. Estcourt Oswald, Dr. Miall Smith, Dr. Hancock, Miss Loudon, Miss Hamilton, Mrs. Alison and the Dinner Secretary; Mrs. Shaw MacLaren [a past Guest of Honour]; Sisters Bedwell, Rose-Morris, Adam and Willis; Tozer, Chapman, Tollit, Arthur, Moffat, M. Anderson, Rolt, Smieton [Mrs. Sanderson], Middleton, Prance, Young, Carter, Collum, Whitehorn, Morgan, MacGregor [Mrs. Hallam], Banks [Mrs. Simmonds], Murray (Big), Wilson, Newton, Leishman, Thorne, Stables, Stein [Dr.], Berry, Merrylees, Big Anderson, Little Anderson [Mrs. Blood], Johnstone [Mrs. Lyon], B. Johnson, Buckley [Dr.], Howard Smith, Inglis, V. Inglis, Martin, Stewart, Reeve [Mrs. Loach], J. MacPherson, Mackay, Butler, Jamieson, Millar, Webster, Westcombe [Mrs. Wright], B. MacPherson, Cowie, Warren and Smeal.

Five Guests of Honour were invited, but all were unable to come, so that I fear the reputation of our noisy dinners may be to blame. Miss Gray, Salway [Mrs. MacIntosh] and Dr. Dobbin had taken tickets, but did not appear on account of illness. Apologies and deep regrets at being absent were received from Burrard [Mrs. Dashwood], Yeats, Sister MacKnight, Richmond

[Mrs. Hayden], Dr. Ross, Nicky, Forrest, Mrs. Carter, Minchin, Tatham, Sister Shea, MacNaughton, Daunt, Cannon, Dr. Lorimer Hawthorne, Dr. Hodson, Sister Begg, Flora MacDonald (who sent 10s. towards the Dinner Fund), Grandage, Sister Winstanley, Brown, Weir, Ashton, Paley, Ricketts and Sister Lewis. Various telegrams were received from overseas members, with messages of remembrance. The toasts were proposed by Mrs. Alison—"France," responded to by the singing of the Marseillaise by the whole company with Millar at the piano; by Prance—"Our Overseas Members," responded to by Big Andy; by Mrs. MacLaren, who told us about the Serbian Memorial to Dr. Elsie Inglis, and lastly there was a speech from our Chief. After dinner the room was cleared and the Villers-Cotterets cinema film was shown with great success. Amusement was caused chiefly by the length of our skirts—next time it is shown this may no longer be strange—and the hurry of everyone. We had forgotten we lived in such a rush. Our thanks are due to Collum for the trouble she took over the showing of this film. As the room was cleared for one event, another was added, and eight of the old veterans danced the eightsome reel—more or less correctly. The Robin's Ditty ended the evening.

The next Dinner will be held on Saturday, Nov. 29th, 1930.

RUTH NICHOLSON,  
Dinner Secretary.

#### S.O.S. from Smieton, Our Hon. Secretary

Our Hon. Secretary works very hard. She does her best to keep the Register of Members up-to-date. Unless it is up-to-date the Letter-Forwarding Service, carried out for the Association by the Pioneer Institute at 70 Victoria St. (which gives us house-room and an official address for £5 per annum), cannot function efficiently. But it is not possible to keep it up-to-date if Members omit to send Smieton their changes of address! It surely is of some convenience to members to know that, merely by sending a letter addressed to any old Royaumontite who is a member of the Associa-

tion, c/o our official address, they will be certain to get into touch with her, or that, conversely, any member of the Unit who may wish to communicate with them may do so, without knowing their address, simply by sending a letter c/o the Association. But to carry on this automatic forwarding service it is essential that every member keep Smieton posted of their changes of address. Even temporary alterations should be given, especially if they happen to concern a London address. A certain number of old R's do drop in at the official headquarters to consult the Address Book, on the chance of finding some other old R. in Town. People come home on leave, and people from the far North or West come to stay in London. Sometimes the chance visits of two old co-workers co-incide. It is then that the Address-book may be of great service. If—!—it is up-to-date.

#### Pay Up! Pay Up! and Play the Game

This S.O.S., of course, is for succour for the Treasury, over which Tollit presides. Had it not been that, owing to our Chief's wedding, this *News-Letter* is once more being sent free, gratis and for nothing to people who have not yet joined the Association or helped to keep Royaumont's body in being as a home for its spirit and an instrument through which that spirit may still work wonders, well—a number of so-called "members" would have ceased with this issue to get news for which they do not pay. Perhaps they get into debt to the Association through inadvertence. But may we remind them—for the last time—that inadvertence is not accepted as an excuse from the Association when it gets the bill for printing and postage of the *News-Letter*. It has to pay. Play the Game, old Royaumontites, and so enable Royaumont to play the Game. Our funds are getting low. And, after all, the Association is not just a gang of people who club together to receive mutual gossip about one another. We exist to keep alive the comradeship of the war years. If one of our number fall by the way, the existence of the Association insures that those who were her co-workers then will be in the position to hold out a friendly hand now. Is not that worth our paltry minimum subscription—or as much more as you can afford to give? Tollit's address is 12 Woodchurch Rd., N.W. 6.

#### Miss Ivens' Account of Operation Table Fund

Donations				Expenditure			
Smieton	...	...	£10 10 0	St. Bartholomew's Operation Table and	...	...	...
Middleton	...	...	1 0 0	Name-plate	...	£91 4 0	...
Dow	...	...	5 0 0	Balance, paid into Emergency Loan Fund	...	...	...
Mrs. Arthur	...	...	25 0 0	Account <i>pro tem.</i>	...	1 15 6	...
Arthur	...	...	5 0 0				
Miss Ivens	...	...	25 0 0				
Mrs. Savill	...	...	2 2 0				
Miss Courtauld	...	...	10 0 0				
Miss Loudon	...	...	5 5 0				
Carter	...	...	10 6				
Inglis	...	...	1 0 0				
Tollit	...	...	1 1 0				
Miss Nicholson	...	...	3 3 0				
Collum	...	...	1 1 0				
A. L. Anderson	...	...	2 2 0				
£92 19 6				£92 19 6			

#### Silver Paper for Emergency Loan Fund

The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association thanks those members who have sent her silver paper—and asks for more, and from more people. Nearly everybody has silver paper, and it is used to wrap a great many more things than chocolates, cigarettes and floral button-holes! Please don't throw it away next time you have a piece, but slip it back into bag or pocket, and then into a box or tin, which we hope you will keep on your mantelpiece, labelled "Royaumont Emergency Fund." When you have a nice little collection, send it to Etta Inglis, 36 Oakley Crescent, London, S.W. 3.

#### Our Poppy Wreath at Asnières

A *couronne* of laurels and Haig Poppies, with thistles, and rosemary for remembrance, was sent, as usual, to M. Delacoste at Asnières-sur-Oise, who, since the Curé's death, himself places it for us on St. Andrew's Day at the foot of our Memorial to the Men who Died in our Hospital, erected at the Viarmes-Royaumont-Asnières-Bailion cross roads, where the machine-gun emplacement used to be. For the benefit of readers who are not yet members of the Association and were not present when the Monument was dedicated, we may add that it also marks the spot at which the tide of invasion was turned back by the Victory of the Marne, of which wayfarers are reminded by a suitable brief inscription. And, at the request of the local French folk, it bears on its reverse the names of those of our own staff who died while serving France. The chaplet always has a clearly-written card telling passers-by who has sent it, and that we do not forget.

#### New Members and Changes of Address

Welcome to New Members:

E. M. Bunyan, 1227 Dorchester St. West, Montreal.  
M. J. F. Dunn, 4 Queen's Gardens, Glasgow, W. 2.

The following changes should be noted:

A. L. Anderson, c/o Capt. Blood, c/o Colonial Secretary, Colombo.

Churchill (Mrs. Latham), now lives at Brae Cottage, Pangbourne.

Collum (Hon. Editor), now lives altogether at Well Bottom, East Melbury, Shaftesbury, Dorset (Tel. Shaftesbury 117), having given up her flat in Chelsea.

Miss Ivens is now Mrs. Knowles (professionally "Frances Ivens Knowles"). Her addresses are: 93 Harley St., London, W. 1, and Killagorden, Truro, Cornwall.

V. Jackson (temporary only), 7 Queen's Gardens, Aberdeen.

Leng now lives at 33 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

Millar, 15 Doune Terrace, Glasgow West.

Murray (Big) now works at Thwaite Hall, Cottingham, Hull.

Simpson (Eva M. B., Cook) is now Mrs. J. E. Gray, c/o Captain J. E. Gray, I.M.S., 6 Stedman Lines, Maymyo, Burma.

#### From Far and Near

Alison Anderson (Mrs. Blood) was home on leave from Ceylon (bringing Big Andy with her) in time for the Dinner, looking very well. She has two Cubs now, Alison and Tony. At Christmas Messrs. John Smith & Son, the Glasgow publishers, brought out in book form a collection of sketches of her childhood memories entitled *Kelvinside Days* (2s. net), which was so popular that it went into a second edition before the week was out. She wrote them, Big Andy tells us, in Ceylon, when feeling very homesick for Scotland. We believe she has also published some sketches of life in Ceylon, and we hope her publishers will also collect these into book form. Big Andy returned to Ceylon in March, for a Maternity Case booked for April. Alison returns shortly. Andy broke the journey at Alexandria, to stay with an Uncle who paid us a visit at Royaumont, and Middleton, who is taking her fortnight's holiday in the spring, went with her, and had time to see Cairo before catching a Greek boat to the Piræus en route for home.

Ashton has not gone back to Australia with Armstrong (who has a farm there) but is acting as *maitresse d'hôtel* for Lady Samuelson at Beaulieu-sur-Mer. Writing to Inglis in February she says: "If ever you come this way let me know, and come to see me. I am very happy here. One of the nurses from the Nice English Hospital came yesterday. Forrest is there, and I asked her to bring her over one day. . . . Armstrong, I gather, is missing London rather sadly!" Members will recall that Sister Adams was at one time Matron of the Mont Boron Victoria Memorial Hospital, and that Berry also acted as Secretary there for two seasons. Forrest, writing from the Mont Boron hospital says: "Sister Adams seems to have been a great chief here, but is now at Cannes running a very smart nursing home and her assistant matron is now in her place. The present Assistant Matron is a Miss Compton who knows Miss Ivens and was so interested to hear of her engagement. We wonder how she will tear herself from her great work at Liverpool. I have had a call from MacPherson (Mrs. Bruce) and hear that Ashton is with the Samuelsons here, so we are going to have a meeting."

Barclay (Mrs. Golding) has written to Smieton to say that she will be home on leave from Africa shortly. We hope that she will take this opportunity of joining the Association. She thought about it when we first started, and, a year or two later, was still hesitating. We hope now that she will take the plunge.

Binkie it was, who got married last winter to Mr. Dinsmore, and we apologise to Ramsay for casting doubts on the news she sent. Her full name was "Constance Elliot Birks" and Mackay went to the wedding. We wish her much happiness, and we echo what Young wrote: "I do wish she would turn up at the Dinner!"

Members will be sorry to hear that the Rev. Arthur Stanley Vaughan Blunt, Chaplain of the British Embassy Church in Paris during the War, died after a few weeks' illness shortly before our Dinner—at which he and Mrs. Blunt had been guests of honour the year before. Mr. Blunt left Paris in 1921, after ten years' work there, and was vicar of St. John's, Southwick-Crescent, Cambridge Square, W. He was, the *Times* obituary notice informs us, "of the Liberal-Evangelical School by conviction as well as tradition. . . . He was a keen

member of the Westminster Group recently formed in the Church. His was an optimistic temper, which was sure that out of our existing confusions and uncertainties a new and better order was emerging. . . . He had recently been elected Proctor in Convocation, a post which he has not lived to take up." He leaves a widow and three sons. Our President sent a letter of sympathy to them, on our behalf, from our Annual Reunion Dinner.

Welcome to **Bunyan**, a new member, who lives in Montreal. She was an orderly from August, 1918, till the end of the work in February, 1919.

**Cannon** (Mrs. Walford), writing to Inglis in February, said: "I expect to be in England for about 18 months to 2 years so have hopes of attending the next Reunion. My small daughter takes all my time and attention so that I hardly ever go away even for a day."

**Cathcart**, who was for a time an orderly at Royaumont, met with a tragic death in a London hospital last November as the result of a motor accident. The driver of the car, who collided with an "island" in a clear road, well lighted at the time, got off scatheless. The jury returned a verdict in which the driver was said to be driving "negligently"—but that "the negligence was not gross or culpable" although the passenger "died from injuries received" in the smash resulting from the negligence.

**Chapman**, who, like Cannon, lives at Newmarket, has collected silver paper for the Emergency Loan Fund, and Inglis, to whom such collections should be sent, asks us to say that she hopes others will follow suit. We are wondering whether Chapman could not turn an honest penny for the Fund by sending "tips" to old Royaumontites at a shilling a time!

**Miss Courtauld**, writing to Inglis from Jaipur, Rajputana, in February, says: "I have been out of England more than two months wandering about Ceylon, then Madras, and visiting all the places I used to work at in the Residency. For the last 2 weeks we have been North—Benares, Agra, Gwalior, and this place, and are moving on to Udaipur, Delhi, back to Madras, Colombo, and home by April. Such a splendid trip. Some of the places I knew already, some of these Rajputana cities were quite new, and they are just wonderful. It is hot, but not yet badly so. Hope all goes well with you and the rest of the Royaumontites."

**Daunt** wrote a wail to Tollitt when she had to miss the Dinner after hoping to get to it. "It would be so lovely to see you all and to get back for one evening the delightful spirit which belonged to Royaumont. Will you tell everyone how sorry I am not to see them? I have been vegetating here for two years. I came home when my father was dying and since his death I find it extraordinarily difficult to get away from home; though I have schemes on hand which I hope will come to something more than just dreams." In January, writing to Inglis, she remarks: "I had hoped to be on the way to Moscow to-day. I had got my visa and was ready to start when I was told it was inadvisable to go just now, so I had to give up the idea. A horrid disappointment as I love Moscow particularly and was anxious to see for myself how things are. I hope to go later on. It is a mistake to stay too long in one place. Ivan wants me to go to Colombia . . . it does not sound very sensible, but I suppose I shall go sooner or later." One of the luxuries of life is to be so placed that one can savour to the full the pleasure—of coming

back again! One misses that if one becomes permanently anchored.

**Disorderly**, writing to Inglis in February, said: "I've been ill with bronchitis with a high temperature. I'm afraid I won't be fit for March 1st—I'd just have loved to come and see la Colonelle 'woo'd and married and a' as the song says, but I'll need to ca' canny for some time. Tell all the others how sorry I am not to meet them and if they have time to write a wee note and cheer me up." **Sinclair** has been looking after her, and wrote: "Just after getting the notice about the wedding I had to pack hastily and come to look after Miss Gray, where I am at present. We have long cracks about Royaumont days." We hope Disorderly has ca'ed canny, and is much better—but we fancy that it would still cheer her if members would write her a few lines now and again. She has always filled her life so full of activities, and must hate taking things easy!

**Don** went off to America in January, and is singing there for a couple of months, then going on to New Zealand via 'Frisco, returning to Bournemouth in July.

The suggestion that the Unit should give some small token of its affection for its old Chief on the occasion of her marriage brought in letters, and news, from many old Royaumontites who do not often write to us. Among these was **Sister Christina D. Duncan**, of the Nursing Institution, Derby, who wrote to Inglis: "I should love to meet you and others whom I know. Often, yes! very often, I go over that time, and the very nice people I met there, with whom it was a pleasure to work." Well, we hope she will be able to come to the next Reunion Dinner!

Welcome to **Dunn**, a new member of our Association. "Some little time ago," she wrote to Tollitt, "a copy of the *Royaumont News-Letter* came into my hands—a most intriguing epistle—and I should be so very glad if you would put me down as a subscriber. I don't suppose for a moment you have the haziest recollection of me, but I don't forget you,—and Morgan. So sorry the Royaumont Dinner and my visits to Town have never synchronized, but here's to better Luck!" Dunn went back to Royaumont last October, and "was astounded by the beauty of it." That shaft goes home to the Editor's heart. She remembers Buchanan going off to the station to fetch three new orderlies, one of whom was destined to help with the Vêtements, which was becoming something of a nightmare in those days when there was no pulley, and all the mending had to be done by Gill and herself, plus an occasional volunteer, with intermittent help from **Mrs. Hacon**. Dunn was Miss Tod's selection. And Dunn sat up in the attic, mending and mending and mending, longing—a little bird whispered it, long afterwards!—to get time off while the sun was shining. And so she never realised that Royaumont was so beautiful. But it was beautiful, also, by moonlight!

**Sister Everingham** wrote to Inglis from Bournemouth (The Victoria Nurses' Hostel) "the marvel to me is that Miss Ivens has not married before. Still it was just as well, for the Scottish Women would have been lost without such a capable leader. Now she must rest on her oars, and I do indeed wish her 'all the Best' in her new life, and trust she will be very happy. I am still nursing, chiefly Baby work, and am likely to continue my work until I get (?) to the age of 60."

**Jamieson** thoroughly enjoyed the Dinner, and hopes "to be an annual visitor now that I am more or less

1930

a free agent. The Aunt with whom I lived for seven years has now gone to Hampstead so that I expect to be often there."

**Big Johnnie** (B. Johnson) gave us news that **Little Johnnie** had been ill with appendicitis, and **Little Johnnie**, writing to Inglis in February, said that she was just back after six weeks in a nursing home. She was then in Bournemouth. We hope she is now quite restored to health.

**Mrs. Large** wrote to inquire "if the annual reunion is always to be Friday" an evening on which she could never be present. With one or two exceptions due to exceptional circumstances, the Reunion Dinner has been held on the Saturday nearest St. Andrew's Day for many years. We suggest that she should join the Association, when the Spring and Autumn *News-Letters* would keep her posted as to Royaumont news and fixtures.

**Leng**, writing to Inglis in February, remarked "It is very good of you to give up so much of your time and to give us all this chance of showing, in however inadequate a way, a little of our appreciation of Miss Ivens' work at Royaumont."

**Sister Lindsay**, on the same occasion, wrote: "It does seem an eternity since I saw any of you. Every year something seems to prevent me from coming down—but I go on hoping. I had **Disorderly** here for a weekend at Christmas time." She was then looking fit and well.

**E. M. MacNaughton** (Mrs. Crowther), sending Tollitt a donation towards the Royaumont operation table in the S.W.H. Memorial Ward, Royal Free, wrote last November that she "spent three delightful months with my sister in Toronto this summer and found it very difficult to settle down again after such a long holiday." She continues: "I have been to the Repertory Theatre, Birmingham, twice lately, to see **Richmond** in 'What it is to be young' and 'The Circle of Chalk.' She was just perfect in the part of the Scotch landlady in the former play and her Scotch accent was quite the best in the play. I hear from **Ross** spasmodically and she also is disappointed not to get up for the Dinner. The thought of an eightsome reel sends a thrill through my Highland blood, tell **Inglis**! I shall be with you all in spirit that night." [Thank you, MacNaughton, for the postscript, which—on March 30th—I see for the first time. Never mind, it cheers me as I sit here typing "news" for the *Letter* when the spring is just calling me to come outside and watch the rabbits and the birds, or potter about in the garden.—Ed.]

**Miss Magazin** came home from Africa in time for the Dinner, looking very well in short grey locks—and years younger! She has been elected a member of the Pastel Society. We understand that she did well during her last trip, and that this next time she is taking out a Baby Austin in which to transport herself, though whether it is to tow a lorry to carry the stock-in-trade of prints and sketches, we do not know. The car (a new secondhand one) was purchased through a friend of **Berry's**, who also provided excellent Morris-Cowleys for **Big Andy** to take back to Ceylon (she requires road transport to get to her up-country cases), and for **your Editor**, who has now had a professional car provided for her for her archaeological research work. **Big Andy** drove her car about 2,000 miles during the month she used it before shipping it out, and your Editor and **Big Andy** between them have driven the other Morris

nearly 5,000 miles since your Editor had her driving lessons in January. **Berry's** friend, therefore, can be trusted to give old Royaumontites a square deal and rock-bottom prices when supplying used cars. **Berry**, by the way, has bought a cottage near her sister's house at Market Harboro.

**Manson** (Mrs. Falconer), enclosing in a letter to Inglis her subscription to the wedding gift, sends "my kind remembrances to all Royaumont friends. I hope one day to be able to attend a reunion dinner." In the meantime, won't she join the Association and so add to our strength? She was out with us from December, 1917, to the end of June, 1918.

**Merrylees** has had a letter from **Daviaud** at the New Year, in which he writes: "Si vous voyez Miss Ivens, Miss Cicely Hamilton, Miss Berry, Collum, Anderson, Ramsay-Smith—toute enfin!—dites leur bien que Daviaud n'oublie personne"—nor do any of us forget him! The **Specialiste** also wrote to her for Christmas. He has moved to Etampes-sur-Marne, par Château-Thierry, Aisne, where he is head of the alcool department of a big Co-operative. His son Robert, who is due to be called up for military service in October next, had to stay behind at Orleans. We all wish him good luck in his new job.

**Dr. Miall Smith** (Mrs. Fry), writing on the same errand on January 31st from a nursing home, said: "I came here for the birth of my second little daughter. She arrived on January 22nd. I have now a family of three as well as the practice, so shall have my hands full!" Congratulations! We shall expect a photograph of this new Cub for the Album, please.

**Millar** has relinquished her post as Sister Tutor at the Stanley Hospital, Liverpool, as her parents have need of her at home.

Apologies to **Mitchell's** (Mrs. Findlay's) cub Peter, whose final "R" was omitted in references to him in the *News-Letter*, and in the Cubs Album. Please, we really read his name as "Pete" and did not do it out of malice!

**Big Murray**, sending her subscription to Inglis for the gift, remarks how glad she is that la Colonelle, when retired from active hospital work, would not have to face a life alone. And, forgive an indiscreet editor!—she says some surprising things about "cousins and nephews and nieces and suchlike," which boil down to the qualifying words "when they are MERELY . . ." We believe that most Royaumontite "Aunties" would rise up and declare that "nieces and nephews" take a lot of beating. Your editor, having no actual brothers and sisters, begs leave to say that some cousins can be a very good substitute! **Big Murray** now has charge of a Hostel at Hull, with 17 students to look after.

**Little Murray** (Mrs. Galbraith) (Chauffeuse) was called into touch again by Inglis' card. Now that we know her whereabouts (Lochanhead, Dumfries) and she has been reminded that old Royaumontites exist still as a body, will she not join us?

**Miss Nicholson, M.S.**, has been appointed Lecturer in Gynaecology in the Medical School, Liverpool University, a post formerly filled by our President.

**Nicky**, sending her subscription to the wedding gift from Bucarest, remarks to **Inglis**: "I heard all about your marvellous bathrooms from various people. They made me green with envy. You are badly needed in

Bucarest!" We suppose she is alluding to those beautifully designed baths, with their tinted marble, and their specially dyed rubber floors to harmonize, which she conceived and carried out for Mrs. Arthur's house in Mayfair—the small house tucked away in what was once a mews and first transformed into a house by Mrs. Dudley Coats. Another feature for which she was responsible was the use of Lalique glass for the electric lighting. We may repeat that **Mrs. Arthur** has expressed her willingness that any old Royaumontite, wishing to employ Inglis to design and carry out the decoration and furnishing of her house, should first call at 14 Culross St. and "see for herself" the result of allowing a single designer to bring an entire house into one harmonious scheme. One not unimportant consequence is that the house seems larger than it really is. Another is that it is extraordinarily reposeful.

**Prance** hopes to be a regular feature at the Reunions now, as her brother in India comes home for good this month, so that the family anchorage will now be at Five Corners, Wickham Bishops, Essex, instead of intermittently in Calcutta and South Africa.

**Richmond** (Mrs. Hayden) wrote to Inglis in February: "I am greatly thrilled to hear about Miss Ivens' marriage: I had no idea till I got your postcard that I found waiting when I got home, having been away with a convalescent husband. We come to live in London at the end of March, so I hope to get to the dinner next time."

**The Robin** hopes to start for Oberammergau on May 3rd.

**Little E. M. Simpson** (Mrs. Gray), writing to Tollit from Maymyo last January, says: "I was married fully a year ago, and as my husband is Indian Medical Service, my home is presently in a very beautiful part of Upper Burma, with a very moderate climate. The winter is delightful, and the hot weather not too bad, so it means no separations. I feel I am very lucky being here for my first station, as we shall in time move back to India. We have a little daughter who arrived on 10th February, so please enlist her with the younger generation. Her name is Elizabeth Margaret and we are justly proud of her—fair hair and blue eyes, in fact, supposed to be like me, if you can remember what I looked like in the old days. They seem so far away! How I do devour the *News-Letter*, so hope I have ensured its receipt for another period. I haven't come across any old Royaumontites out here but am always hoping I'll meet some one. The life is good. We have excellent opportunities for all sorts of games, and the climate is evidently going to agree with us. We expect to be here for two years more but the time does fly. I had news of **Betty**, who is well, and off to Nice for a few weeks. I think you are an excellent hard-working

committee, so good luck to you. Do you know anything of **Clark** (Office)? If you are publishing any of this, please give my love to **Daunt**. I so often picture her—in her grey suede shoes!"

**Smeal** is back from Paris and attended the Dinner. Her plans were still unsettled when we last heard of her. (Will she read the note under **Jackson**, below, please. She might be able to suggest something.)

**Tatham** is on the lookout for a job, if any old Royaumontite can put her on to one. Office and secretarial work, and work on compilations and journals is what she is accustomed to doing. Members can write to her at the Portsmouth Club, 12 Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

**Tollit** writes that **Jackson** is also wanting work, as her present post, in Aberdeen, comes to an end at the end of June. She has been Matron there for four years, likes Hostel work, and would much like to get a job in Paris. She says: "I don't want children again."

**The Wee Free** (Dr. Helen MacDougall, now Mrs. Hendry), writing to Disorderly in February from Bathurst, Gambia, in West Africa, says she has been having a good deal of fever, but has learned some treatment "tricks" from one of the older doctors on the Coast. She treated herself on his lines, and "sweated and slept in rotation" and was up and about in a week, whereas previously she had been laid up a month and "would have given a fortune to have slept." She goes on: "I am running two Welfare Centres, a sick Clinic for Women and Children, a Maternity Ward, and 12 Sick Babies' cots—this without any trained help, and a very poorly fitted out ward. We are having very cold weather just now and the Infants often come in without a shirt on. If you should happen to know of anyone with old children's vests or jerseys not very givable-away in the Old Country you might send them on. The majority of the children here die with pneumonia before they are two years old. You would laugh at me cutting out shapes for booties and semets in the middle of my medical work. Within the next two months I expect about 100 babies to be born in the Clinic. We have a very great deal of sickness amongst the pregnant mothers, so I have plenty to do. The Clinic Sister came out in October. She was first occupied with sick Europeans and was only a week on Clinic work when she herself got ill and had to be sent home, so I am all the time alone. I have four partly-trained nurses, one chronically sick nurse, and six quite untrained people. All being well, I will be at the Dinner this year for the first time in my life. Won't it be good to see the old faces! My small daughter has grown tall, puts on weight every month, and learns good manners where she is." It will indeed be jolly to have our Wee Free at a Reunion!

---

N.B.—Members who would like to buy prints of our illustration, should write to **Mr. Fred Fyfe**, Press Photographer, 1 Hollytree Road, Woolton, Liverpool.