

### Mrs. Corbett Pleases BPW Club Members

#### English Nurse Speaker At First Meeting of New Year

Forty-one members of Edenton's Business and Professional Woman's Club heard a most interesting talk Thursday night when Mrs. Elizabeth Corbett, a British nurse of the Chowan Hospital staff, addressed the organization at its first meeting of the new year held in the Hotel Joseph Hewes clubroom.

Mrs. Corbett, a soft-spoken and lovely person, kept her audience spellbound, as she spoke on "International Relations," during which she related how "Little Christmas" is observed in England. Her talk was entwined with delightful humor throughout. Mrs. Corbett is a native of London, England, and has been in the United States for 18 months. She has been affiliated with the Chowan Hospital nursing staff since September, 1949, and has made many friends throughout the county and Edenton.

In opening her speech, Mrs. Corbett declared, "I am deeply honored that you requested me to address your club meeting this evening. I think I shall be able to entertain you for a short period without you becoming bored or weary. 'International Relations' is a subject of wide scope and anyone more capable than I could go on speaking for hours. However, with my limited knowledge and vocabulary, I will only touch on a few of my personal impressions and briefly on customs."

Mrs. Corbett stated that many times she had been asked, "What brought you to live in Edenton?"

"One quiet September day," she explained, "as I entered your town and proceeded to drive through it, I was impressed with the lines and the quiet modesty which seemed to say, 'You are welcome here if you care to come and be one of us.' I got off at the bus station and made a few inquiries. Mr. Wheeler was most courteous and willing to answer my many questions regarding the town. I was favorably impressed! And particularly as I drove about the town later, surprised to find myself making comparisons

with places of similar size back home. Later when I visited your business section and inquired for the chemist shop—drug store in your language, haberdasher's for dry goods store, etc.—folks didn't laugh and ridicule. They smiled sweetly and tried to understand. A great compliment I consider to strangers trying to adjust themselves to new ways and customs. People here have time, it seems, to be human.

"Christmas approached and I wondered what the procedure would be like," Mrs. Corbett continued, "I rather feared that I should miss the gaiety of our festive season and I would probably feel a little depressed. I even asked if I might do extra duty around this time to keep me busy and help to forget. I found I needed no such stimulus. To the contrary, I didn't have enough free time in the finish to enjoy completely all the activities and accept all the kind invitations extended to me here.

"Even though you do not celebrate Boxing Day, December 26th, and Little Christmas on Shakespeare's 12th night, January 6th, you seem to spread your celebration through to New Year's which amounts to the same when it's all summed up. What is 'Boxing Day' someone asked me? Usually tradesmen and people who serve you all during the year—postman, paper boy, delivery boy, milkman and baker—all call at the homes and receive some sort of recognition for their services during the year. In ancestral courts and manors even today,

staffs are given a banquet, served to them by members of the family and in large staffs, promotions are appointed, followed with a Christmas tree and entertainment or a ball. Male members of the family usually leave immediately after breakfast to spend the day hunting and shooting game and rabbits and hare. Luncheon is usually omitted and supplemented with high tea or not supper unless a banquet is prepared for evening."

Mrs. Corbett went on to say that Boxing Day is observed in England the first week day after Christmas Day so called from the gratuities and presents given to servants on this day, the gratuities being at one time placed in boxes. Christmas pantomimes are usually produced for the first time on Boxing night, she said. "Celebrations in country places usually called for feasting of game and hare and rabbits which were caught or bagged on 'Boxing Day,'" Mrs. Corbett said. "The meal always finished with plum or Christmas pudding, which was boiled in cotton or linen cloth and which had been made in November. Several puddings were made at one time because birthdays always included plum pudding."

Mrs. Corbett delighted her audience when she humorously related how she knew when her birthday came around. "My birthday being in February, which month I could not pronounce at the time, I referred to it as after Christmas Boxing Day—twelfth night and three puddings from the end. Seeing that, I always watched the pud-

dings disappear in that way", she laughed.

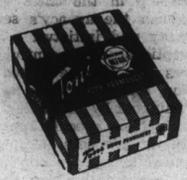
In closing, Mrs. Corbett stated that the larder plays a big part in English homes. Not so convenient as the American deep freeze, but has a similar significance. "Little Christmas," she said, "is the finale to all Christmas holidays. The evenings after dinner were spent around the fireside which burned all around the Christmas tree, holly and evergreen, with chestnuts being roasted and songs sung by the group.

Program chairman, Miss Fannie Sue Sayers, introduced the guest speaker, who later in the evening treated the group to a beautiful song, "Galway Bay", which was thunderously received. Miss Dorothy Williams was at the piano.

Following short business transactions, Miss Myrtle Waff was welcomed as a new member and light refreshments were served.

#### FRANCIS CHESSON CHAPLAIN

At a meeting held last week, new officers of the Euzelian Literary Society of Wake Forest College were elected for the spring semester. Among the officers of the society is Francis Chesson of Edenton, who will be chaplain. Chesson is a member of the junior class.



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