

## NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

## LONDON BRANCH.

The Annual Meeting of the London Branch of the N.U.T.N. was held on Saturday afternoon, 27th February, at the Institute of Hygiene. Many members of the Scattered Members' Branch, which enrolls nurses from all over the world, were present, as well as London members.

Lady St. Helier, who was in the Chair, spoke of the wonderful work of nurses now in contrast with former times, and of the gratitude they inspired in their patients. There was no comparison between the good work the thoroughly trained nurse could do, and the untrained. It was a great thing to have a Union with an ideal, and she hoped the numbers would increase, that all nurses would join, and the Union become a valuable and important one. Union was the great strength of every movement, and this society had realised the importance of co-operation and concentration.

She then went on to say that a great number of nurses would be required in the near future, and it was important it should be realised.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports for the year being read, Miss Haughton, the President of the London Branch, moved their adoption, and said how necessary it was to support a nurses' organisation. She thought great praise was due to the nurses who stayed at home, and did the quieter work, which was most necessary, especially midwifery. There was increasing difficulty in getting candidates for midwifery training.

Miss Pye spoke on the work done at the Central Office since the war, in acting as a Clearing House for nurses, and said that an absolute rule had been made of not recommending anyone for service abroad unless they had had a three years' training.

Miss Gibson, in moving a vote of thanks to Lady St. Helier, said that when everyone was pining to serve their country, the work at home might be forgotten. Nurses must remember what heritage had been set before them, and in tending suffering of any sort they must give of their best. The true vocation of the nurse was just as much fulfilled in imparting love, sympathy, and care to those left at home, and the best work was often the quiet work.

A large site has been purchased on Clapham Common in the name of Sir John Wolfe Wolfe-Barry for the erection of the new United Westminster and St. George's Hospitals.

## OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

## NEWS FROM ITALY.

BY OUR ROME CORRESPONDENT.

No one regrets more than I to be so late in sending news from Italy, but it is rather impossible both to work and talk at such a time, and we have been full of work here, at the Policlinico, since January 13th, when the first victims of the earthquake began to arrive in Rome, and when our hospital alone took in as many as nine hundred wounded, the six wards belonging to the Scuola Convitto Regina Elena taking in about one hundred and fifty, a row of ten beds extra being placed down the centre of each ward. The zeal and kindness of our nursing staff knew no bounds; gifts of clothing for the poor people were instantly forthcoming, and on their own initiative the probationers collected among themselves the sum of 200 lire, or £10 8s., which is enabling us to give 5 lire each to every wounded person when he or she is discharged from the hospital. We have had many very bad and sad cases; many have died, but on the whole the recoveries are decidedly in the majority, and as soon as possible the chief desire and object of all these patients is to return to their native town or village, to be once more among the ruins of their homes.

All the public hospitals in Rome took in the wounded and sick, Santo Spirito and San Giovanni each receiving three hundred; Sant' Antonia and San Giacomo were re-opened for this purpose; the Pope's Hospice of Santa Marta, near St. Peter's, accommodated one hundred and sixty at one time, and again at other times about one hundred and twenty-five; the English nuns on the Monte Celio took in some twenty-four cases at various times, while the Anglo-American Nursing Home accommodated some thirty-three wounded. (These two last are private hospitals.)

The generosity and help shown by all classes of society throughout have been splendid; hundreds of articles of clothing alone were sent in to our hospital—shoes, dresses, shawls, &c.—many of the articles being absolutely new, and I have handled beautiful baby clothes, touching and speaking family relics.

At each hospital a branch of the "Re-uniting Committee" was established, and many touching scenes took place, when families were again united after being dispersed or thought lost.

In proportion to the area, the destruction in this earthquake of the Fucino surpasses that suffered by Messina in 1908; whole villages have been razed to the ground, while in others where the houses are still standing only the outer walls remain; churches and valuable art relics are lost; mediæval castles are destroyed; Pescara, where Anne of Austria's famous Minister, Cardinal Mazarin, saw the light, and Celano, where the Blessed Tommaso di Celano, the supposed author of the "Dies iræ, dies illa," was born, are among the many ruined towns.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)