

THE LADIES' COMMITTEE.

At the recent meeting of the Ladies' Committee, of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the Duchess of Somerset submitted the text of the Brass Tablet which is to be placed in the Friory Church of St. John as a memorial to the late Sir Claude Macdonald. It was very simple and was unanimously accepted. No member of the Committee could be more sincerely mourned than Sir Claude, always so kind and enthusiastic about the good work the Committee had in hand. The Duchess, who has kindly received Christmas gifts for sick and wounded soldiers in France in the hospitals specially cared for by the Order of St. John, reported that she had received upwards of 3,700 gifts, which were on view at 35, Grosvenor Square, to members of the Committee. It was reported that the medical officers at the Brigade Hospital, Etaples, were to have match boxes inscribed with the arms of the Order, and Lady Perrott's proposal to give the whole nursing staff, of whom there are 67, belt buckles, met with generous support, Lady Phillips offering to pay the whole cost. These buckles are of charming design, having "The Order of St. John of Jerusalem" inscribed around the edge. We feel sure this gift will be immensely appreciated by the nursing staff, and will be for ever kept and valued in memory of their service at the Brigade Hospital.

It was reported that Her Majesty the Queen had sent a Certificate of thanks to the St. John workers, which had been framed and should greatly encourage further effort upon their part.

An address given by Mr. Francis Gribble on his experience as a civilian prisoner at the Camp at Ruhleben, was listened to with intense interest and many present could not help comparing the shameful neglect and suffering endured by the English prisoners, with the sentimental ostentation of our arrangements for German prisoners at Donnington Hall and elsewhere. The contrast was simply heartrending, and we cannot but think that we should obtain much more humane and decent treatment for our prisoners in Germany if our German prisoners were treated with less weak servility in this country. The Teuton is not a species which can comprehend even the elements of chivalry. It is satisfactory, however, to know that Ruhleben is not the pigsty it was originally, and that thanks to men like Mr. Stanley Lambert, the invalid prisoners are no longer starved and neglected. Mr. Gribble paid a high meed of praise to Mr. Lambert's humanitarian and scientific work for prisoners in the camp. Let us hope there are means by which a grateful nation can recognise it.

Miss A. E. Pirnie, cert. Newcastle Royal Infirmary, has left this country to take up service with the Belgian Field Hospital.

Miss Annie C. Mackenzie, cert. St. George's Infirmary, is leaving for service at the Hospital Militaire Anglais, Nevers.

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

Two interesting contributions have been made to the funds of the Anglo-Russian Hospital now established in the Dmitri Palace in Petrograd. The Empress Alexandra Feodorovna has presented the hospital with 30,000 roubles out of a fund at Her Majesty's disposal in Petrograd, and an anonymous contributor, who sent £300 to the funds in August, has now made a second contribution of £500, "in order," as he says, "to show my gratitude and appreciation of what our brave Allies, the Russians, have done for the good of the Entente Powers."

A sum of £3,000 is urgently needed to carry on the work and extend the usefulness of the Urgency Cases Hospital, maintained by the British people at Revigny for seriously wounded French soldiers. Sir Arbutnot Lane is president of the hospital committee. Out of 1,115 cases treated, only 41 deaths have occurred, and tributes to the excellence of the work done by the institution have been paid by leading French military surgeons. Donations may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. James Baird, 50A, Curzon Street, London, W.

Many people will anticipate with some eagerness the publication of a volume now in the press "The Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem and its Grand Priory of England," compiled by Mr. H. W. Fincham, who has for many years been connected with the Library of the Order at St. John's Gate and Warden of its Priory Church. The history of the Order is traced from the earliest date to the present time, when its activities in connection with the relief of the sick and wounded are attracting so much attention. A chapter on the modern side is contributed by Mr. W. R. Edwards, Secretary of the Order, and an authority on ambulance and first aid matters.

The volume will be a small quarto, with large margins, and many attractive illustrations, and would be a welcome gift.

WEDDING BELLS.

An engagement of unusual interest is that of Miss Kathleen Smith, until recently Matron of the West Kent Hospital, Maidstone, and at present Matron of the 5th Southern General Hospital (T.F.), Southsea, to Major T. A. Munro Forde, R.A.M.C. (T.). Major Munro Forde is attached to the staff of the above hospital, and is also Hon. Surgeon to the Royal Portsmouth Hospital. Miss Smith was trained at the Essex and Colchester Hospital, and the Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester, in both of which institutions she afterwards held the position of Sister. She was also Housekeeper for three years at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, before being appointed Matron of the West Kent Hospital, and has a wide circle of professional friends who will unite in wishing her every happiness.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)