

of these martyrs are still alive. What joy for them to be in a country where they will be treated humanely. Let us hope many of these men, whose sufferings we cannot estimate, will find health again in the bracing Swiss air, and in surroundings where beauty and peace will combine to restore their shattered nerves.

Antiques are so fascinating that we are not surprised the Joint War Committee hopes to turn an honest penny by their sale. It is announced that the British Red Cross Committee and the Order of St. John have decided to open a shop for their sale in the ordinary way at 3, Clifford Street, Bond Street, W., which will be called the "Red Cross Gift House," so that people who find it inconvenient to give money may send some valuable object from their possessions, to be sold without the risk of the auction room, for the benefit of the sick and wounded. The "Gift House" will be open to the public on May 22nd, and goods will be marked in plain figures. Many dealers, especially women with little capital, have had a bad time during the War, and we hope their legitimate trade will not suffer by further competition. As a picker-up of unconsidered trifles, we know many of these ladies, and know how hard they work for very little profit, and yet they are honourably self-supporting.

The *Times* is not satisfied now that Kut has fallen, that Sir John Nixon's dispatch makes public all that should be known about the "lamentable breakdown" of our hospital arrangements in Mesopotamia, and it thinks the public should realise its very serious defects. Our contemporary says:—

"The paragraph on the subject in Sir John Nixon's dispatch may be accurate, but it is misleading. He states that 'the organisation and efficiency of the arrangements have ensured as speedy an evacuation of the wounded as the means placed at their (the Medical Services') disposal admitted.' He says nothing about the speed actually attained after the actions described, and nothing about what the 'means' were. We have already stated that at the battle of Ctesiphon they were calculated to deal with less than 500 casualties. Some sort of provision may have been made to treat three or four times the number of cases, but we believe it to be a fact that there were no 'means' at all for the treatment of more than half of the men actually wounded. Heavy rain fell after the action and numbers of the wounded lay out in it for hours. They were brought down the river in boats without any proper shelter from the wet and the bitter cold. The boats were not hospital boats. They had been used for all sorts of transport work, and in some of them, at least the wounded had to take their chance with the other traffic. Men were left without food for hours after they fell, and on the voyage down stream the commonest medical necessities were wanting. We hear of

hundreds of wounded being sent down in charge of a single doctor without a staff of orderlies or even of servants of any kind to assist him. There was no suitable diet for the sick, and the simplest appliances for the wounded were lacking. Wounds were left undressed for days after the first field dressing, and many died from dysentery and from exposure. We trust that these defects have been remedied by this time, but they had not been remedied when some of the latest fighting mentioned in the dispatch took place."

## NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

### A NEW BRANCH.

A large meeting was held at the General Hospital, Birmingham, on May 10th, to inaugurate a new branch of the N.U.T.N. About 150 Matrons, Sisters and Nurses were present, amongst them many Territorials from the various Military hospitals. Miss Lloyd took the chair; and, after a few preliminary words, introduced Miss Thurstan, Organising Secretary of the N.U.T.N., who spoke on the urgent need of having a strong national and professional union. The resolution, stating that it was desirable to form a Birmingham branch, was put to the meeting and carried unanimously. Miss Ashford was appointed the temporary Secretary, and said she hoped to receive a great many names. The first general meeting of Birmingham members will be called shortly. 106 members joined the new branch. Miss Musson said a few words, wishing it every success, and invited everyone present at the meeting to a most delightful tea in the board room of the General Hospital.

It is proposed to start a quarterly magazine for members of the N.U.T.N., the first issue of which is to be published on July 1st. It is natural that an association should wish to have its own official organ; it is so difficult to keep in touch with members without it, but monthly and quarterly magazines are not very popular, because they naturally fall into the category of reports—and what we all thirst for in these days is news. Then, just at present, the cost of labour, paper and production is so high, that, if the War continues, journals will cost subscribers more, or will decrease in size. On the other hand, the policy of a society cannot be driven home without the publicity of the press. Without the "constant dripping" of *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* on the question of the State Registration of Nurses, the whole movement would have been submerged by the employers' press ages ago.

### NEW APPOINTMENTS.

*Russian Medical Relief Expedition.*—Sisters Miss C. Percival, Miss A. Simpson, and Miss J. G. Webb.

*Exeter V.A.D. Hospital.*—Miss A. Rooke, Staff Nurse.

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