

## THE SHAKESPEARE HUT.

On Friday last the opening of the Y.M.C.A. Shakespeare Hut, situated on the north side of the British Museum, was the occasion of an inspiring ceremony, and must have been an immense gratification to all those immediately concerned in its promotion.

The Hut is erected on the site that was secured by the Committee of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, the building of which, owing to the exigencies of the war, has for the time being been abandoned. This Committee have not only lent their site for its present purpose, but have contributed the funds for the Concert Hall in the Hut.

Mrs. Alec Tweedie, the prime mover of this and many other like schemes, has herself presented the lounge in memory of her young son, 2nd Lieut. Leslie Tweedie, R.F.A., killed in action last January.

A large number of persons gathered at the opening ceremony, which took place in the memorial Lounge.

The large Tea Room presented by the borough of Marylebone was filled to its utmost limits by invited guests from various military hospitals, and a generous tea was provided. On their arrival the men were welcomed by the canteen workers, whose pretty soft red overalls harmonised well with the blue and gray uniforms of the wounded and the uniforms of the civilian nurses in attendance on their patients. Each man received a packet of cigarettes

which they were not slow to sample. This hut was alluded to in a speech by the Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., as the Hut de Luxe, and well deserves this appellation.

Sleeping accommodation can be provided for 250 men at prices ranging from one penny to ninepence. A penny purchases a rug on the floor, and ninepence secures a bunk in a cubicle for two which can be locked up. There are intermediate grades at threepence and sixpence. There are splendid arrangements for hot baths. A magnificent kitchen promises well for the canteen. A delightful Rest Room, presented by the Borough of Westminster, provides small writing-tables and writing materials. A bureau in the hall, where tickets for bed and breakfast may be purchased, has a notice advising that all valuables should be deposited there. The spacious billiard-room, with several tables, is the gift of the Kensington

Borough. The clink of the balls mingled cheerfully with the voice of the gramophone and the hum of conversation, giving the visitors a foretaste of what will take place under this roof so long as the war lasts.

Field Marshal Viscount French, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., performed the opening ceremony.

He spoke in sympathetic allusion to the young life laid down in the person of Leslie Tweedie, in whose memory the lounge was dedicated, and warmly thanked Mrs. Alec Tweedie for her magnificent work connected with the erection of Y.M.C.A. huts. An immense change for the better had, he said, come over the personnel of the Army in the last few years, a great deal of which, he thought, might be attributed to the influence of these huts. Lord French in eloquent terms expressed his admiration and appreciation of the splendid

devotion of the women of England, which had been shown in such a variety of ways, no matter how menial the work. Of their work for the sick and wounded it was difficult to speak, but when the war came to be chronicled, their part would form one of the brightest pages in history. Speaking of the men in the Army, he said that their splendid courage had never been surpassed. He spoke with emotion of the blood-stained battlefields, and said that this war had demanded more nerve and courage than any other and it had been freely given. Sir Edward Clarke, K.C., P.C., the Chairman, and the Secretary of the



MRS. ALEC TWEEDIE.

Y.M.C.A. also made speeches. Miss Grainger Kerr delightfully rendered the song "There's a Land" (*Allitsen*). The Dedicatory Prayer was read by Canon Walter Hicks, and the proceedings closed with the National Anthem.

Tea was afterwards served, and the guests were invited to inspect the Hut.

H. H.

## STATE REGISTRATION.

A meeting was held last Saturday in the Outpatients' Hall, at the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, at which Mr. Arthur Stanley, M.P., spoke in support of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and of State Registration of Nurses. Miss Cox-Davies urged that not a moment's delay should occur in nurses adding their names to the College register.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)