

Many people are wondering where all the nurses at present engaged in war nursing will find an outlet for their energies, by and by. No doubt the great impetus given to preventive nursing, and the serious effort to raise the standard of the national health, will provide employment for many, but to those to whom work in connection with foreign missions appeals there is an unlimited field of work, providing an outlet for the professional skill, and the sympathetic relief of human suffering that appeals to the highest instincts. Take the claims of India alone. The Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C., can speak of urgent demands for the service of nurses for the women of India who live an enclosed life behind the purdah. Moreover, there is pioneer work to be done in organizing, developing and raising the standard of nursing in Indian hospitals and in training Indian women. It is a full life and a happy one, as many who have adopted it testify. An interesting picture appears on page 398.

THE NURSES' CO-OPERATION "AT HOME."

The Nurses' Co-operation at 22, Langham St. W., gave its annual "At Home," in connection with the Needlework Guild, to members and friends, on December 7th.

The Nurses' Needlework Guild had their customary display of articles destined for distribution among certain hospitals, for the use of poor patients taking their discharge. The guild is doing a very good work in this respect, as every nurse who remembers her hospital days will admit. It has been the sad experience of many to see patients, who, during their sojourn in the hospital, have been warmly clad and cared-for, leave the institution in garments ill-fitted to withstand either wet or cold. Among the clothing on view were some charming children's woollies for small patients, cunning little nighties, petticoats, socks, and some little boots and shoes that will be highly prized by some harassed mother in these days when shoe leather is an almost impossible price for the poor. In the room above was clothing for the adults—shirts, underclothing, warm undershirts, wool cross-overs, and many other desirable comforts.

Tea was provided on the ground floor, over which members and their friends renewed old acquaintance.

Miss Rundle, the Secretary of the College of Nursing, spoke on this tiresome theme, and did little to enlighten her audience on points of real interest to private nurses.

Sir Jesse and Lady Boot entertained a thousand wounded soldiers to a cinema Christmas party at the Stoll Picture House, Kingsway, on Wednesday.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"MISSING."*

Mrs. Penny has written a capital story of life in native Indian high places. "Missing" deals with intrigues in the Palace of the family of the Rajah of a small state in his absence on active service during the present war. The story betrays, as do so many of its predecessors, an intimate knowledge of Indian life both from the native and European point of view, and this romance while it is full of adventure and exciting episode, bears the stamp of reality and probability.

"The Rajah, a young man of twenty-seven, was as full of pride and arrogance as a Rajah can be. He had an indomitable courage that knew no fear, and a will that brooked no resistance."

The Dowager Ranees, his stepmother, however, had a will and a temper that matched his own, and she also had a son that she would gladly have seen the Rajah could only his obnoxious half-brother have been removed from his path.

The English Resident, officially known as agent and manager, was Major Rossington, whose niece, shortly after the opening of the story, came to keep house for her uncle. Before she had long been resident in his house, Major Rossington died, after a brief illness, and he commended the young Ranees to his niece's care, the young Rajah, her husband, having by this time left for Active Service in the Indian Army. Of course, it followed that a new Resident had to be appointed who occupied the quarters of his predecessor. Miss Ellingham, pitying the loneliness of the young Ranees, took up her residence under the royal roof. The Ranees was devoted to her despotic young husband. So far she had borne him only two little girls, which was felt to be somewhat of a disgrace. Moreover, the Dowager Ranees fully emphasised the fact that, should the Rajah be killed in the war, her own son would succeed him.

The parting between husband and wife is described in the picturesque language that Mrs. Penny knows so well how to use.

How soon would he return?

"Heart's delight, it will be a year." Then, as his gaze dwelt on the beautiful woman at his feet, the battlefield was forgotten for a moment and his thought flew to other things. "Then, if the gods be favourable, it may be that we shall give the Dowager Ranees reason to rage and scold and hate us ten thousand times more than she hates us at present." He concludes by quaintly telling her that if the gods are not favourable he might take another wife.

The Ranees, fearing that yet another daughter might be born to them, keeps from him the secret that she is expecting another child. Around the birth of this child is centred the crowning interest of the story. The birth-room and its quaint ceremonies are described at length. Custom obliged the birth to take place under the roof of

* By F. E. Penny. London: Chatto & Windus.

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