

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT AND THE MARQUIS OF MACDUFF.

We have pleasure in reproducing this week a photograph of Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught and Lord Macduff. Her Royal Highness is a Vice-President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and, as is well known, she takes a very enthusiastic and practical interest in all branches of nursing. For over three years and a half she worked at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington; and for some time also in the wards of Queen Charlotte's Hospital. The Princess is in no sense one of those who can be accused of having merely "played at nursing," for she has shirked none of the difficult or trying duties in the daily round of the hospital wards, and has taken every opportunity which offered of acquiring a sound knowledge of nursing.

The Princess, who is Duchess of Fife in her own right, is the eldest daughter of the Princess Royal of England and the late Duke of Fife. Macduff was the patronymic of the first or Celtic Earls of Fife; and Dufagan Comes, who lived in the reign of Alexander the First is the first recorded Earl of Fife and was descended from the kingly stock of Moray. In the early days of Scottish history, Fife held a very high position as an earldom, probably because in former times it was the demesne of the Pictish Kings. In olden times the privileges of the Clan Macduff were three: first, that they should sit on the right of the Royal Chair on Coronation Day; second, that they should lead the vanguard in every Royal battle; and third, a remission for homicide on a fixed payment, and sanctuary at Cross Macduff.

LECTURE.

BOKHARA AND SAMARKAND.

We have seldom listened to a more fascinating lecture than that given by Miss Meakin, F.R.G.S., under the auspices of the Corporation on Decem-

ber 19th. In commencing Miss Meakin said that she would conduct her audience across the sandy desert of the wild Turkomans (the Parthia of the Ancients) to the Gates of Bokhara the Noble. The attitude of Russia in connection with Bokhara, for a considerable number of years, was explained and also why the present condition of affairs in Russia had opened up the Moslem States of Central Asia to the civilised world. She referred to the influence of the Bolsheviks in connection with Bokhara, and the dangers which might arise were they to possess themselves of the Moslem States on the Indian frontier.

Miss Meakin said that Bokhara's civilisation is a thousand years behind our own, her people are the strictest and most fanatical Mohammedans in the world. They are like grown up children so far as the outer world is concerned and have to learn before they can stand alone. "From what great Power or Powers are they to learn? That is one of the nuts that the Peace Conference has to crack." Bokhara is not far from the frontiers of India and if the Indian Government does the duty that lies near it, said Miss Meakin, she will lend a helping hand to Bokhara. The lecturer strongly emphasised the importance of help for Russia. "The old Russia lies in ruins. Russia's noblest sons are fighting for the unity of Russia, just as America's sons fought in their civil war for the unity of America. Just as naturalised Germans penetrated England before the war and sapped her commercial wealth, so the Germans, who were naturalised Russians sucked the wealth of Russia, and if we do not help Russia they will do it again. Now is the day for English and Russian merchants to join hands and cope with the clever German, now is the time for Russo-British enterprise to develop the natural wealth of Bokhara."

The women of Bokhara are the most secluded in all the world, and the Russian residents were struck dumb with astonishment some years ago when the Amir of Bokhara suddenly announced that he was going to give a ball. "Would the ladies of Bokhara throw aside their great black horsehair veils for once?" No such thing; the real ladies of Bokhara could not be expected to leave the seclusion in which their lives were spent, even for a short time, and, if they could, they would not have been able to waltz! This is how the Amir got over his difficulty—he sent invitations to all the Russians in or near his territory. Every man, every woman, no matter their degree or

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