

ST. JOHN'S HOUSE.

It is with feelings of great regret we announce that St. John's House, at present located at 12, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, which has borne so honourable a part in nursing developments in this country, will, from April next, cease to have a separate individuality. Founded in 1848 as a community of women who are members of the Church of England, who should receive such instruction, and undergo such training, as might fit them to act as nurses and visitors to the sick and poor, it has kept well abreast, and in some instances in advance, of the nursing standard of the day. It was first located in Fitzroy Square, in the Parish of St. John the Evangelist, St. Pancras, as a Training Institution for Nurses in Hospitals, Families, and for the Poor, and the first probationers were sent to Middlesex Hospital for Training. To St. John's House, amongst other institutions, Miss Nightingale applied for and obtained nurses to go with her to the Crimea. At various periods in its history it has been responsible for the nursing at King's College Hospital, Charing Cross Hospital, the Metropolitan Hospital, the North Eastern Fever Hospital, Tottenham, under the Metropolitan Asylums Board and others, besides maintaining its own Maternity Home at Battersea, as a training school for midwives and maternity nurses. It is probably correct to say that in every war of any importance St. John's House nurses have been represented; they have also done good work as district nurses. Latterly the private nursing branch has been the one most highly developed, but, with the loss of the Metropolitan Hospital as a training school in 1896, it was inevitable that sooner or later fundamental changes would take place.

Since 1883 the House has been supervised by members of Religious Sisterhoods—All Saints, St. Peter's, Kilburn, and East Grinstead. Now it passes into secular hands, and St. Thomas' Hospital will for the future carry on the work as a Private Nurses' Co-operation, to which the nurses will pay a fixed percentage. The House will thus no longer rank as a separate institution, but as an integral part of the organization of St. Thomas' Hospital. Peace be to its ashes—and may a Phoenix arise therefrom.

At the General Meeting of the League of St. John's House Nurses, held on January 31st, Miss H. J. Hawkins and Miss Richardson were nominated as its delegates on the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

WAR EXPERIENCES OF MEMBERS ON THE DIFFERENT FRONTS.

Miss S. Marsters, Chairman of the London Branch of the N.U.T.N., presided at a meeting convened by it at the College of Ambulance, 3, Vere Street, London, W., on Saturday, January 18th, when several members gave interesting accounts of their war experiences.

WITH THE B.E.F.

Miss Jentie Paterson described how, when war broke out, members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and its Reserve were first sent out and then members of the Special Reserve provided by the Civil Hospitals. She left with a party from Guy's Hospital, on August 11th, amid much enthusiasm, after tea, and a service in chapel. Their destination was unknown, but they went no further than the Burlington Hotel, and did not dare to show their faces outside, as they knew they were supposed to be on active service, and prayers were being said for their safety night and morning. Eventually, however they got away and travelled, *via* Woolwich and Southampton, to Havre. They were part of the staff of a hospital of 500 beds which had the peace-time strength of 43 sisters, which was, of course, not nearly a large enough staff for a hospital of acute cases. Eventually the War Office learnt wisdom, and more were sent.

Arrived at Havre, old men, women and boys were assembled to welcome the English, and wave Union Jacks. They were allotted soldiers' billets in the east end of the town. They took it as part of war conditions, but when they found the result of sleeping there, and that the officers were billeted elsewhere, they represented to the authorities that while they were ready to share all the disagreeables of the officers, they considered more appropriate billets might be found for them.

They were three days and two nights in reaching Rouen. They had gone out wearing the Army capes and bonnets of peace time. They found the latter especially very unsuitable, secured some hats, and left the bonnets behind. Later there was trouble at their giving away War Office uniform.

Miss Paterson illustrated her address with most interesting lantern slides, and showed the Fourth General Hospital at the Petit Trianon, Versailles. Here they had their first taste of German arrogance. Some German prisoners were sent to them, and one of the officers was courteously invited to visit the wards, and asked if he would like to make any comments. He had so much to say that a Sister inquired if he had any more complaints, and on more being forthcoming, she invited him to remember that he was in France and on his way to England.

Two hundred beds had been provided in tents

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)