

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

GOOD WISHES OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION TO THE PRINCESS MARY.

On reading the news of the betrothal of Her Royal Highness the Princess Mary, one of the Members telephoned to request us to telegraph at once the congratulations and good wishes of the Members of the R.B.N.A.

We therefore wired to H.R.H. the President, asking her to be graciously pleased to send to the Princess the nurses' message of loyalty and good-will.

The following letter has been received in reply:—

"Dear Miss Macdonald,

"My niece was greatly gratified and pleased at the kind congratulations from the Members of the Association, and has asked me to express to all her warmest thanks.

"Very sincerely yours,

"HELENA."

LECTURE: RUSSIAN CENTRAL ASIA.

Sir James Crichton Browne took the chair, on Saturday last, when Miss Christie gave her long promised lecture on Russian Central Asia. In introducing the lecturer, Sir James referred to Miss Christie's journeyings in Eastern lands. She was, he said, one of the most adventurous of women travellers, and when she went to Russian Central Asia she was no novice, for she had already wide experience in Eastern travel. At Cowden Castle she had many treasures of Eastern art and a fine Japanese gallery. On the slopes of the Ochil Hills she had laid out an exquisite Japanese garden which was visited by many pilgrims. He (Sir James) could recollect visiting another such garden, could remember its temples, strange bamboo houses, cherry trees and chrysanthemums. He considered it a very great privilege to introduce Miss Christie, and felt proud that she had been so kind as to undertake to lecture before the Association, for the fact that a lecture such as this should be given at the Club was a public recognition that nurses were not merely experts in their

own branch of study but that they were also women of high education and interested in many branches of knowledge.

Miss Christie had put on the screen first a map of the country over which she proposed to take her audience. She described the fine trains by which one could journey, trains of which the fine Pullman cars were lit each by its single tallow candle, a system characteristic of Russian enterprise; so often it reached to great heights to stop short of a perfection which lay quite within its reach. The next slide was one of camels on the desert, and snowclad mountains behind. Water is difficult to procure there, and must be boiled before use; washing is quite out of the question and, as one interpreter expressed it, there was "merely a little rose water for the face."

Many interesting views of Turkistan were put on the screen, some of its towns, others of outlying districts with quaint dwellings and strangely garbed folk. Other slides depicted hat shops, bread shops, pottery stalls and various sections of the market place where men spread out their wares. In the bread shops the loaves were hung on lines of string, and they measured about two feet long and six inches wide. They were very thin, but the lecturer pointed out that their peculiar shape was not inconvenient, as a man, on buying a loaf, could roll it up and tuck it into his saddle bag; when two or three days old, however, this bread required a set of very strong teeth to deal with it. The vases in the pottery market were of a really beautiful Grecian type, believed to have been introduced into the country at the time when it was conquered by Alexander the Great; this conclusion is probably correct, as in these Eastern lands new ideas take root very slowly.

Other slides still showed what are believed to be the remains of strongholds of Alexander, though what once were towns are now nothing more than a collection of mounds, shapeless, and with here and there the ruins of some tomb. The pictures of Bokhara, with its two hundred and sixty mosques, and two hundred and three colleges, causes one to realise some of the possibilities of a country that can hardly yet be said to have been explored. The natives were attired in gorgeously coloured garments with white turbans on their heads, and the lecturer remarked, as she showed certain pictures of the younger population of this

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)