

portion of Central Asia, that she had rarely seen more fascinating or prettier children, and none more picturesquely attired. Outside each mosque was a water tank and, unfortunately, the contents of these tanks are a frequent cause of disease for, in drinking the water, the people swallow the eggs of a certain parasite from which there develops, in their tissues, a worm several inches long. Therefore, near every tank one generally finds a barber and, just as in England two or three hundred years ago, every barber was also a surgeon, his business it is to excise the worm when an unfortunate patient consults him and, as too often happens, when his operation is not a success, a serious form of blood poisoning develops. The lecturer told an amusing story of how she witnessed one of these operations and, when the living worm was thrown back into the tank, she remonstrated and pointed out that it would only be the cause of further trouble. No one would see her point, however, for "the worms have always been thrown back before," it was contended.

In Bokhara the trees are very precious, and no one will cut their branches; the photographs of many houses, therefore, showed how the walls were built round those branches which penetrated the houses. The inns, said the lecturer, were fairly comfortable, although each inmate had to bring her own bed and bedding and often to cook his or her own food.

The market of the astrakhan fur merchants was another interesting slide and, contrary to many reports, Miss Christie said that it was untrue that excessive cruelty was practised in connection with the trade. A high tower was shown from which two emissaries of the British Government had been thrown in 1841. This was a favourite form of capital punishment, although one to be deplored on the occasion referred to, as the mission of the Englishmen was intended to be entirely peaceful. Theft, said Miss Christie, was a crime almost unknown in Turkistan because, on the first offence, the culprit's right hand was cut off; on the second his left; and, after the third offence he was hanged. The remains of an ancient observatory were shown, and it is probable that the astronomical research, carried on there for many centuries, also owed its origin to the invasion of the country by Alexander the Great. Many mosques and tombs of the saints were shown, some of them very beautiful indeed and with wonderful pieces of work by Persian artists. Sheep's horns appeared to be the favourite offerings to be laid upon the tombs. The lecturer's remarks, when explaining a picture of a rice mill, served to show that the inhabitants of the country had proved the value of vitamins even if they possessed no actual scientific knowledge of the discovery and composition of these.

In reply to questions, Miss Christie said that the Government of the country was largely on Soviet lines. She found the Russians most courteous at all times, and was of opinion that the country held vast resources which in future might be developed for the benefit of the whole world;

indeed, she was convinced that, in that part of Central Asia which she had described, there lay possibilities of the greatest magnitude.

Sir James Crichton Browne thanked Miss Christie very cordially for her lecture which, he said, had been so vivid, so bright and so deeply interesting. He felt that everyone must admire the courage which had led Miss Christie into these far away lands and the close observation which she had made of the characteristics of their peoples.

On the motion of Miss Elma Smith, a cordial vote of thanks was extended to Sir James Crichton-Browne for presiding.

TRAINED NURSES' ANNUITY FUND.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian will open the Sale of Work in aid of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund on Friday, December 9th, at 12 noon. The money resulting from the Sale will go towards the foundation of the "Amy Elizabeth Good Annuity," and we feel sure that the desire to help some sick and aged nurse and to perpetuate the memory of a young member of the Association, who some little time ago passed from among our ranks, will lead all who read the Supplement and who are within reasonable distance of London to use their best efforts to make it possible to come to 194, Queen's Gate on the afternoon of December 9th.

Those who have been so good as to mark the various gifts have kept in view the fact that many nurses will buy their Christmas presents at the Sale, and they therefore purposely refrained from making the prices high. The Members of the Association have sent us many lovely gifts, and we shall be grateful to those in town if they will make an effort to make the Sale of Work widely known among their friends in London.

GIFTS TO THE CLUB.

Mrs. Hayes Palmer, illustrated papers; Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Ogden, Misses Holt, Kent and Young, flowers; Miss Gilligan, butter; Miss Petersen, eggs.

APPOINTMENT.

Miss Margaret Maclagen has just left for Egypt, where she has accepted an appointment as School Nurse under the Egyptian Government.

THEATRES AND CONCERTS.

We very frequently are given seats at various theatres and concert halls for the nurses, and we shall be glad if all those who would like to have these will give us notice that they could use them, and send their telephone numbers. We do not usually know until the forenoon of the day on which the seats are to be used that they are available, and therefore it is only by telephone that we can intimate to the nurses that they can have seats.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

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