

best gift of all—opportunity. Only the future can show what the nurses will make of their "gift."

THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.

We have received from Major Barnett, M.P., a letter expressing his warm thanks to the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association for their help in the recent election. Major Barnett is so kind as to attribute his success very largely to the nurses' efforts, and, whether or not they were really able to contribute very far towards this success, they at least feel whole-hearted satisfaction in his return to the House of Commons.

SALE OF WORK.

The Sale of Work in aid of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund last Saturday was quite a success, and realised something over a hundred and ten pounds. We are unable to state the exact amount, as one or two articles have still to be sold, and a few small accounts remain to be paid. The result compares well with previous years, and we are deeply grateful to all those who helped, both by coming to make purchases and by sending us so many nice gifts.

DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT: "ELIZA COMES TO STAY."

On Saturday, December 8th, the Burnt Ash Club presented "Eliza Comes to Stay" at the R.B.N.A. Club to a large and appreciative audience. The Dramatic Section of the Club enjoys the reputation of being one of the best amateur dramatic companies in London and its neighbourhood at the present time, and, as several people remarked after the performance, the acting was indeed well up to professional standards. Anyhow, the actors and Miss Cattell, who was instrumental in arranging for the performance to be given at the Club, had every reason to be pleased with the reception which the play received at the R.B.N.A. It was produced under the direction of Mr. Leslie Mason, and, where all were so good, one finds it difficult indeed to say which characters in the play pleased us the most. Miss Barbara Wood, as "Eliza," was altogether delightful in her interpretation of the versatile and truly original heroine of the play around whose vagaries the action chiefly centres. She could be as tantalising, naughty, innocent, and as charming as the various incidents demanded, and we felt real sympathy for the "Hon. Sandy" (Mr. Tom Lovegrove), while we laughed over his perplexities. Mr. Herbert Lovegrove, as the valet, was splendid; and surely there never was such a delightfully irascible old gentleman as "Mr. Stoop Verral" (Mr. Sears), or so haughty and yet so kind-hearted an old aristocrat as "Lady Pennybroke" (Miss Elsie Speyer). Miss Vera Laurence played her rather difficult part very cleverly; and we enjoyed to the full the disconsolate "Mr. Montagu Jordan" (Mr. Leslie Pettitt). "Mrs. Allaway," the nurse, played by Miss Baring gave us plenty of food for merriment in the sur-

prises which awaited her after her first entrance. The entertainment resulted in a contribution of some fifteen pounds for the Memorial Fund. Great admiration was expressed for the spacious stage, the gift of Mrs. Campbell Thomson, which enabled the producers to work under the most favourable conditions possible in a house not built with the intention that it should be occasionally converted for use as a theatre.

We warmly thank the members of the Dramatic Section of the Burnt Ash Social Club for their great kindness to the Association.

EARLY MEMBERS ON CHRISTMAS SUNDAY.

We remind our members that a number of the early members are going to take tea together at 194, Queen's Gate on Christmas Sunday, 23rd inst. Many of these, after long years of self-sacrificing work, have very limited incomes and we ask the younger members, in memory of the early days of their Association, to act as hostesses to those who laid its foundations and to send a contribution towards the entertainment. Many have given generously to the Association during their working years, and it must cheer them to be entertained by the kindness of the working nurses of the present day. What will please them and us still more will be to find many of these younger nurses present on Sunday to join the tea party.

EPIDEMICS IN RUSSIA.

A report on the "condition of epidemics in Russia," published by a Moscow paper shows that while the epidemics of spotted typhus, typhoid fever, and cholera have considerably abated since 1922, malaria is spreading.

For the first seven months of 1922 the registered cases of typhus (including spotted typhus) amounted to 2,346,906; the figure for the same period in 1923 was 381,617. There were 42,021 cases of smallpox in 1922 and 34,414 in 1923. For the first eight months of 1922 the number of registered cases of malaria in Russia was 2,086,417; later 2,792,349. In the provinces of Samara and Saratoff there were over 400,000 cases and 100,000 in each of the following areas:—The German settlements on the Volga, the province of Voronesh, the Kuban-Black Sea region, the Tartar Republic, and the Baskhir Republic. In the Ukraine there were 272,547 cases, 245,649 in the Caucasus, 133,897 in Siberia, and 65,889 in Central Asia. Malaria is also prevalent in Moscow, where 13,649 cases were registered for the first eight months of 1923.

This condition is of considerable importance because epidemics in one part of Europe tend to spread to other parts.

This is clearly demonstrated by Miss Muriel Payne in her book "Plague, Pestilence and Famine."

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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