

## MAUDE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, BASRAH, IRAQ.

Miss Ellen M. Lorraine, M.B.E., M.B.C.N., Matron, Maude Memorial Hospital, Basrah, Iraq, sends an interesting description of how the Civil Hospital in Basrah was started.

"There had been no Hospital for civilians except the American Mission Hospital, which, unfortunately, had to be closed down in 1915, owing to a bad outbreak of Typhus Fever. The British Military authorities who were then in occupation of Basrah decided to provide a Hospital for the benefit of the poor civilian population who were greatly in need of it."

In 1917, Miss Lorraine and Miss Barker went to Basrah at the request of Miss Waterhouse (then Matron-in-chief of Q.A.M.N.S.I., in Simla), and found that the hospital consisted of two large dilapidated buildings, one of which had been a Turkish Post Office, and the other a school. They were respectively Men's Surgical and Medical Wards. The nursing was done by Indian Hospital Orderlies. One small room was reserved for women, who were looked after by an old Arab woman, who claimed to be a midwife.

The first task, to equip with furniture and linen, was achieved, and early in 1918 a large house was acquired and equipped as a Women's Block. Then a Russian lady doctor joined them and an Out-Patients' Department for Women and Children was started.

Miss Lorraine tells us how difficult it was to arrange for the nursing of the patients as, owing to the custom of the country, no woman of a respectable class could leave her home to do any work. This difficulty was somewhat relieved, however, by the arrival in Basrah of a large band of Armenian refugees, among whom were many young women anxious to find work. Some of them were employed, a small house rented as a nurses' home, and an elderly woman installed to look after them. The Armenian girls proved to be industrious and intelligent, and soon became very useful assistants. Several other British Sisters joined. This made it possible to commence a systematic training.

After the War, the Iraq Civil Health Service decided to build the Maude Memorial Hospital, Basrah (of 180 beds), as a memorial to General Maude. A well-equipped Hospital with modern operating theatres, X-Ray and electrical treatment departments, laboratory and a special wing for paying patients, was erected. A system of training was organised for nurses to enter the Hospital to train for one, two or three years, with a period of three months as pupils. At the completion of three years' training and after passing the Final Examination, a certificate of qualification is given.

Rules concerning staff quarters, off-duty time, etc., are arranged much on the lines of an English General Training School. Miss Lorraine tells us that at the present time all their female nurses and probationers are Arab Christians, that they nurse female patients only.

The men in the Medical and Surgical Wards are nursed by Arab and Armenian youths whom they have trained as nurses and dressers, also to do the menial work, as it was found unsuitable to employ the female nurses in the men's wards.

"We find that Armenian men make excellent nurses, and are really more easily trained, as, generally speaking, they are much better educated than the women."

We feel that Miss Lorraine, Miss Barker, and the British Sisters are to be congratulated upon the pioneer work rendered by them in the cause of suffering humanity.



A GROUP OF NURSES AT THE MAUDE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, BASRAH.

## BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

In view of the increasing importance of blood transfusion the Medical Research Council and the British Red Cross Society have appointed Dr. H. F. Brewer, Senior Demonstrator of Pathology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to be Medical Officer to the Blood Transfusion Service organised by the Red Cross.

Dr. Brewer will supervise the examination of transfusion volunteers, the collation of information on the effect of blood transfusion on donors, and carry out active and continuous research into blood groupings, so that the Service may be kept abreast of the latest developments in surgery and haematology. Laboratory facilities are being provided by St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

## JOHN BOND'S "CRYSTAL PALACE" MARKING INK.

"John Bond's Marking Ink" is a household word, and has been used in the Royal Households from the time of H.M. King George III, 127 years ago.

A striking testimonial has been received by this firm from a lady who states that she has in her possession a piece of damask marked in Marking Ink with the initials of a great grandparent and the date 1832. This lady thinks the Marking Ink used must have been "John Bond's" as she has only ever seen this ink used in her grandparent's and parents' homes.

That marking ink should be perfectly legible after 100 years is indeed a good recommendation!

This ink requires no heating, and can be obtained through all stationers, chemists and stores from a 6d. bottle to a gallon jar.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)