

of the Tower Armouries and an officer of the Order, stowed away in a cellar of the Tower.

The museum in the basement was next visited; here is a rich store of historical treasure, a very wonderful item being "The Rhodes Missal," a richly illuminated prayer-book which the Grand Prior of St. Gilles in France gave to the altar of the Conventual Church at Rhodes in 1511. "It is a fine specimen of the late period of the art of the French illuminators and in beautiful condition, the paintings are of wonderful brilliancy and the masses of burnished gold as rich as when completed, there are two whole-page and twenty-eight half-page miniatures of Bible history and many fine borders and initials. The coats of arms of the Order and of the donor, Fra Charles d'Allemand Rochechinard, appear in many of the borders."

It probably disappeared from Malta during the French occupation and got into private hands. It was offered to the English Order in 1929 by Dr. Olschki, a bookseller in Rome, and 144 members of all grades of the Order contributed the sum required for its purchase.

How many realise, when they see the familiar St. John's Ambulance, the significance of its badge, *The Eight Pointed Cross*, the four arms representing, Prudence, Justice, Temperance and Fortitude and the points the eight Beatitudes, that it was worn by the Knights of the Order as long ago as 1113?; and that the widespread work of the Order is continued to-day by the St. John's Ambulance Association and gives aid to the sick and wounded, as the Knights intended so many centuries ago.

In so little space it is only possible to touch upon the fringe of the history and intention of this ancient and interesting Order. We have to thank the Librarian, Mr. H. W. Fincham, F.S.A., Knight of the Order of St. John, who kindly arranged this very interesting visit, and by whose courtesy much has here been quoted from his delightful history, "The Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem and the Grand Priory of England." This History is now placed in the Lending Library of the British College of Nurses, with grateful thanks for a delightful visit to the Priory Church and the Headquarters of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Clerkenwell. Our thanks are due to Mr. Fincham, F.S.A., for the loan of the block used in this article.

ALICE STEWART BRYSON,

#### INFORMAL TALK ON "THE ROMANCE OF HERALDRY."

By SIR ALGERNON TUDOR CRAIG, K.B.E., C.B.E., F.S.A.

Sir Algernon Tudor Craig has kindly consented to give an "Informal Talk" on "The Romance of Heraldry" at The British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1., on Wednesday, February 12th, at 5.15 p.m., when Fellows and Members of the College will be cordially welcome.

It is hoped that as many as possible will avail themselves of the privilege of hearing so distinguished a connoisseur as Sir Algernon Tudor Craig, speak on this scientific subject.

#### THE NURSES' LEAGUE OF THE WESTERN INFIRMARY OF GLASGOW.

It is announced by Miss E. M. Robertson, Hon. Secretary, that the Annual Meeting of the Nurses' League of the Western Infirmary of Glasgow will be held in the Nurses' Lecture Room, on Saturday, January 18th, 1936, at 3 p.m.

After the completion of business tea will be served and the members intending to be present should notify the Matron, Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

## THE RED CROSS IN ABYSSINIA.

### BRITISH RED CROSS IN ABYSSINIA.

The "British Ambulance Service in Ethiopia" has been absorbed by the British Red Cross Society, and Lieutenant-General Sir Harold Fawcus has been appointed chairman of the committee, with Mr. J. G. Rubie as secretary. All British Red Cross relief in Abyssinia will be dealt with by this committee.

The offices of the committee have been removed from 33, Alfred Place, S.W.7, to the British Red Cross Society Headquarters, 14, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1, to which all further communications and donations should be addressed.

A telegram has been received from Dr. Melly, leader of the British Ambulance Service in Ethiopia, to say that this unit is the chief Red Cross unit for the Northern Armies in Abyssinia, and is now established at Dessie.

The unit was originally planned for work in the Ogaden, but at the express wish of the Emperor has gone to the Northern War Zone. This change has of necessity incurred heavy additional expenditure, and donations will be most gratefully received at the above address.

In response to the Broadcast Appeal by the Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard, upwards of £7,000 has been received for the sick and wounded in Abyssinia.

The bombing and destruction by Italian airplanes of the Swedish Red Cross ambulance near Dolo, resulting in the deaths of many of the sick and wounded, the injury of Dr. Frida Hylander, commander of the unit, and death of Hr. Lundstrom, a male nurse, has aroused great indignation throughout the world, especially in Sweden, which country has been in the front rank of humanitarian relief in Abyssinia.

Belatin Geta Herouy, the Foreign Minister, acting on behalf of the Emperor, has given the Ethiopian Croix de Guerre to Dr. Hylander, of the Swedish Red Cross, who is in hospital, and, posthumously, to Hr. Lundstrom.

A month ago the Italian airplanes bombed Dessie, the military headquarters of the Emperor, and did severe damage to an American hospital there.

Dr. Robert Hockman, of the American Red Cross, who was in charge of the American ambulances in the Ogaden, was killed at Daggah Bur. He was attempting to screw off the cap of an unexploded bomb, dropped by an Italian aeroplane, when the bomb exploded and caused his death.

### BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

14, GROSVENOR CRESCENT, LONDON, S.W.

A Course of Instruction in First Aid in Chemical Warfare for Trained Nurses. Eight lectures and practical work followed by an examination for the Society's Certificate.

Beginning on Tuesday, February 4th, 1936, at 3 p.m. and continuing on Tuesdays and Fridays at 3 p.m.

Examination: Tuesday, March 3rd.

No applications to attend can be received after January 27th.

Particulars and application forms to be obtained from the Matron-in-Chief at the above address.

Those nurses who have attended previous Courses of Instruction in First Aid in Chemical Warfare are unanimously of opinion that they are of great value.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)