

The Sick and Wounded in the Far East.

Our friends and allies in the Far East have not only adopted Western modes of fighting; they have done better, for they have learned the Christian virtue of charity to the victims of war, and it will be seen with much pleasure that the leading Japanese residents in this country, headed by the Viscountess Hayashi, are already making efforts to relieve "those brave men who are cheerfully sacrificing their lives for their country."

This appeal for funds for the widows and families of the Japanese who fall in the war has been issued by Viscountess Hayashi, Mrs. M. Arakawa, Mrs. Komuro, Mrs. Kadono, Mrs. Nishimaki, and Mrs. Uchida, from the Japanese Legation. These ladies say:—

"We shall be most happy to accept donations from all friends of Japan for the benefit of poor women who have lost their dear ones in their service for their country. In forwarding the moneys to our Government, we shall request them to disburse them only for the help of poor widows and families of men fallen in battle. It is our intention to keep this fund open until the restoration of peace, and remittances will be forwarded to Japan in the meantime, as the amount of money collected aggregates to a fair sum. All communications in regard to this fund should be addressed to the secretary, the Japanese Soldiers' and Sailors' Widows' and Families Fund, c/o Japanese Consulate-General, 84, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C."

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Japan Society it was decided to appeal to the public for donations to a fund for the relief of the sick and wounded in the war, such fund to be handed over through the President of the Society, Viscount Hayashi, the Japanese Minister, to the Red Cross Society of Japan. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer of the Japan Society, 20, Hanover Square.

Since Japan adopted the articles of the Geneva Convention it has carefully developed its Red Cross Society. At present it has two hospital ships, built in Glasgow, which did good work during the Boxer rising in 1900, not only among the Japanese, but among other nationalities. Even the Chinese were supplied with limbs! These ships, which are served by women nurses, will carry the wounded from the various men-of-war to the base hospitals. The field hospitals for the soldiers are worked on the same plan as ours. That is, only male nurses and attendants are permitted within the fighting line, and women nurses are confined to the base

hospitals. In the Tokio hospital the war nurses are trained, though, of course, in times of stress the military authorities have to draw upon the nurses from other hospitals—State and civic. The nurses belong to some of the best families in Japan. The Empress is at the head of the Red Cross, and in former wars has, with her Court ladies, worked hard in preparing dressings for the wounded.

The Dowager Tsarina of Russia has issued a Rescript to the Red Cross Society directing it to make provision for those wounded in the war. A branch of the Red Cross has been established in the New Hermitage of the Winter Palace.

Madame Novikoff has informed the press that it was about 1867 that Russia adopted the articles of the Geneva Convention, that is, when the nursing and medical staffs were placed under the protection of the Red Cross. The Grand Duchess Helen, wife of the Grand Duke Michael, brother of the Emperor Nicholas I., took great interest in the movement. But it was long before the Red Cross was started that the Russian people took special care of the sick and wounded. To-day there are Red Cross hospitals at St. Petersburg and Moscow. The present Empress is at the head of the Red Cross movement, and takes the deepest interest in its operations. Already many nurses and women doctors have started for the front to tend the sick and wounded.

Mr. F. J. Norman writes in the *Daily News*:—"The Russian wounded at Chemulpho have, I see, been taken charge of by the Japanese, and, knowing what I do know of Japanese hospitals and nurses, and of the rough and ready methods of the Russians, the wounded Muscovites will consider themselves very lucky. The Japanese doctor is good, but the little Japanese nurse has no superior. With kindly ways and manners and the gentlest of voices, she manages refractory patients with rare tact. I have seen a good deal of her, and have a very great admiration for her too."

The Spanish Red Cross Society has offered its services to the Russian and Japanese Ambulance Associations.

Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, President of the Spanish-American War Nurses' Association, has renewed her offer to the Japanese Minister at Washington of a corps of 100 trained nurses. The offer has been forwarded to Tokio. America is so much closer to Japan than we are that the best of nursing can be arranged from the great Republic at a much less cost than we can give it.

Over £20,000 has already been guaranteed for the great war fund which the Japanese in New York are raising in aid of their country. The sums subscribed by American admirers of Japan will be presented to the Red Cross Fund,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)