

In the Mission Hospital, Miss Liliast Blackett, M.B., B.S., Multan.

EVENING MEETING, 7.30-9.30.

Chairman.—H. Crichton Miller, Esq., M.D. Business Meeting. "A Message from the Front," Major H. Gordon Mackenzie, M.D.; "Medical Work in Korea," Mrs. Weir. Closing Address, the Rev. E. S. Woods (Chaplain to H.M. Forces).

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"FIELD HOSPITAL AND FLYING COLUMN."*

"Field Hospital and Flying Column," by Miss Violetta Thurstan, which we announced last week, has now made its appearance, in a cover of a well chosen shade of blue cloth lettered in gold, in a paper wrapper of lighter shade on which appears the picture of a field hospital.

Both author and publisher are to be warmly congratulated on the book, the author because she writes with directness, simplicity and charm. There is no straining after effect, and an entire absence of sensation which is very grateful. The publisher, because of the excellent type, and general attractiveness of the volume. Miss Thurstan tells her story—which is full of incident, of adventure, of personal danger willingly endured—with the restraint of the professional nurse, and the culture of the University graduate, for she is both. She is, moreover, possessed of a faculty for literature, which is a gift of the gods.

Brussels and Charleroi in the West—Warsaw, Lodz and Radzivilow in the East. Few nurses can claim to have rendered service in both of these storm centres. But such was Miss Thurstan's lot, a privilege secured no doubt by her purposeful pertinacity, professional talent and personal acceptability. She saw and obtained a copy of the historic proclamation of the Burgomaster of Brussels informing the citizens that the Germans were at their gates, with its pathetic concluding words, amply justified: "Citizens, whatever happens, listen to the voice of your Burgomaster and maintain your confidence in him; he will not betray it.—Adolph Max." She saw the German troops ride in, and testifies to the magnificent behaviour of the citizens of Brussels, and later improvised a hospital of 130 beds at the fire station. "Alas and alas! At the end of the week the Germans put in eighty soldiers with sore feet, who had overmarched, and the glorious vision of nursing Tommy Atkins at the front faded into the prosaic reality of putting hundreds of compresses on German feet that they might be ready all the sooner to go out and kill our men. War is a queer thing!"

Life in Charleroi and its neighbourhood was a happy time for Miss Thurstan and her devoted nurses, because though overworked and underfed, their work was most urgently needed. Most trying was the lack of newspapers. "We had nothing to go upon," we read, "but the German

* G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C. 2s. 6d. net.

affiches proclaiming victories everywhere, the German trains garlanded with faded roses, marked 'Destination—Paris,' and the large batches of French prisoners that were constantly marched through the town. An inscription written on a door in Charleroi amused us rather, 'Vive Guillaume II, roi de l'univers! Not yet, not yet, William.'

A brief peaceful interlude in Denmark, where the Danish Council of Nurses gave the British Nurses a welcome, which they will always hold in grateful remembrance; and then on to Poland. "The news just then was not good; the Germans were approaching Warsaw, and the people in many of the villages were starving, as the Germans had eaten up almost everything. (How well I could believe that!) The paper went on to say that the troops were suffering severely from cholera and from typhoid fever, and that there was a great scarcity of trained nurses. That gave me the clue for which I was unconsciously seeking." The remainder of the book shows how well Miss Thurstan followed up the clue. Of Radzivilow, she writes: "The work was splendid, and there, more than anywhere else I have been to, one feels the War as a High Adventure."

We wish space permitted us to quote more, but we hope all readers of this review will buy, or order from their libraries, a copy of the book without delay, and enjoy it as much as we have done.

WOMEN'S WORK.

At a meeting on Tuesday of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland, it was resolved not to appoint official delegates to attend the International Women's Congress to be held at The Hague on April 28th, 29th, and 30th. The committee wish it to be understood that this Congress has no official connexion with the International Council of Women, with which the National Union of Women Workers is federated.

At the last meeting of the Teachers' Registration Council a marked improvement in the number of applications for enrolment was announced. Between February 12th and March 11th, over 900 applications for registration were received, and of these 528 were from teachers in elementary schools. It is considered likely that the first official list of registered teachers will contain at least 7,500 names.

COMING EVENTS.

April 28th.—Nurses' Missionary League. Annual Conference and Meeting. *Morning*, 10 to 12.30. *Afternoon*, 2.30 to 5. *Evening*, 7 to 9.30. University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C.

May 1st.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Quarterly Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 p.m. Miss Violetta Thurstan will speak on "Field Hospital and Flying Column." 5 p.m.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)