

Service, who had accepted their invitation to attend the meeting, and whose acquaintance they were delighted to make.

ANNIE E. HULME, *Hon. Secretary.*

FIELD HOSPITAL AND FLYING COLUMN.

After tea Mrs. Fenwick invited Miss Violetta Thurstan, who, she said, needed no introduction to members of the Matrons' Council, to address them, and Miss Thurstan gave a fascinating account of her experiences in the war zone, both West and East. After the German entry into Brussels, when the English nurses were, of course, in their hands, 80 German patients were sent to the hospital where she was on duty, suffering from sore feet. They were rather trying patients, as they were not bodily ill, and all insisted on keeping their loaded rifles at the heads of their beds, and they were insolent and triumphant.

Later the Germans refused to allow them to nurse their wounded. They said they would rather they died than that English nurses should touch them.

Miss Thurstan emphasised the absolute preparedness of Germany for war, and described the precision with which a town was fired, soldiers armed with hatchets going down a street, and removing square-like panels from the doors, and then inserting a celluloid bomb.

In describing her Russian experiences she said that the Red Cross hospitals were well done. They were nursed by Nursing Sisters.

The Military Hospitals were as bad as the Red Cross Hospitals were good. The Colonel in charge might walk up and down all day and

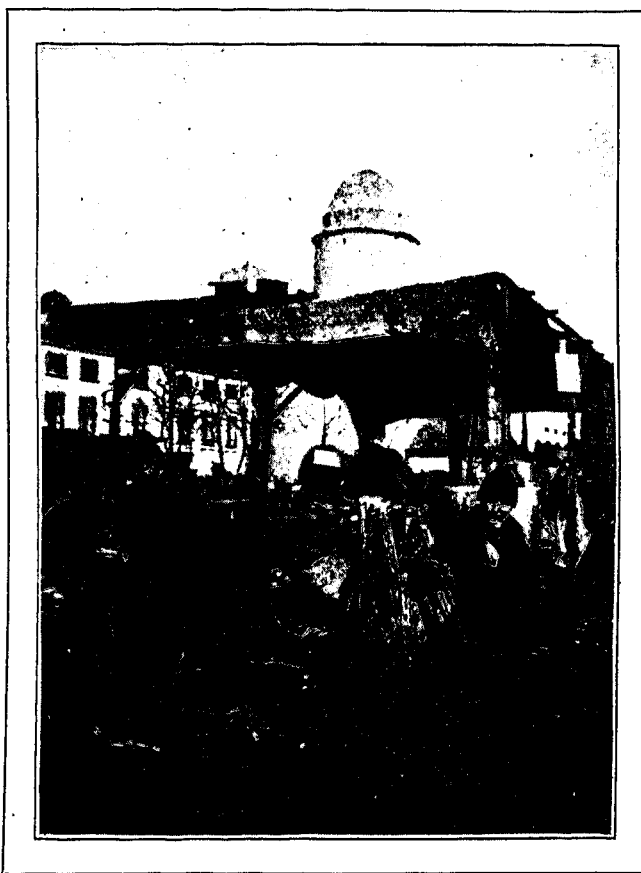
half the night keeping order, but he would never see defects which would be obvious to a trained nurse. There were no women in these hospitals.

One thing she recorded to the credit of the Russian nurses: however hard pressed they might be, they were never known to grumble; all were inspired with the most devoted nursing spirit.

Miss Thurstan has related her experiences in her book, "Field Hospital and Flying Column," published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's, to which we must refer our readers, and which

has been extensively reviewed in this JOURNAL. Copies of the book in the room were eagerly secured by the members, and the autograph of the talented authoress sought.

Miss Thurstan brought with her some interesting items to show the members. An aseptic sheet, feather-stitched in red, from the Russian front, which could be easily sterilized, and placed under or over a patient as desired. A Belgian officer's cap (green and gold) and a German cap (grey and red), her Red Cross brassard of identity, stamped by the Belgian, Russian, and German authorities. Half of a bomb, dropped at her feet from an



A RUSSIAN SOLDIER IN THE MARKET PLACE AT ZYRADOW WRITING HOME. A SNAPSHOT BY MISS THURSTAN.

enemy aeroplane on the Russian front; a piece of German shrapnel; specimen of a card attached to each Russian patient admitted to a flying hospital, whether remaining for further care or sent on to the base hospital. The figure of a man is outlined on the card, and on it the nature of the injury is indicated.

A vote of thanks to Miss Thurstan, proposed from the Chair, was passed by acclamation at the termination of her most instructive address.

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