

Salvation Army Exhibition.

BY A WEST-ENDER.

ON entering this Exhibition just held in the Agricultural Hall, the scene presents the appearance of a mixture of triumphant bazaar and something one may have seen at Earl's Court, and one is tempted to ask—what has this to do with religion? The same query occurs at Church bazaars, Church congresses, and Episcopal garden-parties, and it is not easy to answer.

On closer inspection, however, even a novice is made aware that the intention of the Salvation Army is to aim at the highest and to begin at the lowest; to win the confidence of the masses by alleviating their physical conditions, and later to touch the moral and spiritual side of their nature. The key-note of the Salvation Army struck throughout the Hall is enthusiasm, and one cannot fail to contrast the weary, dejected faces one sees outside with the eager, happy faces of the officers of the Salvation Army, who are able to keep up their spirits in an age of disillusion. Every type of person seems to be represented in their army, and one sees, not without a touch of surprise, amongst the women beautiful patrician faces that are rare enough in the parks.

Even some of the men appear good-looking, and the majority to wear their hair in the luxuriant profusion dear to the novelist, but unknown in Piccadilly and St. James's, where it is considered good form for men to dress their hair *à la convicte*.

In the Exhibition itself one sees episodes of Colonial life—Zulu kraals, a Norwegian fishing hut, and women in native costume spinning real flax; Flemish and Danish women in native costume, Hindoos, Africans, and strangers from all places taking part in the show, and a band discourses loud music. But the most characteristic part of the show is found in the models illustrating in life-size the rescue work of the Salvation Army—the shelters, the crèches, and the Hospital accommodation that is now in its initiation. A great deal that is pathetic is to be seen in these quarters. A sad-looking baby in the crèche is offered for adoption, and Mrs. Booth is anxious to find a home for the poor little girl—not an easy task in a country where most mothers are in the dilemma of the old lady that lived in a shoe—but it would be a blessing to take the six-months' old little thing into the country.

A shelter is shown for sewing girls, who are working neatly, and at intervals singing hymns, which somehow sound all the more sincere because they get a little out of tune.

In the gallery some Zolaesque models of spots in "Darkest England" are shown—a pawnbroker's shop, "Money lent here," in Misery Alley; and "Shirts made at 9d. a dozen," announced in the broken windows. Here the Slum Sisters do their work, and a model is shown of the clean, bare room they occupy in any available house in the neighbourhood. In another part one sees the night-shelters, where box-beds and bunk-beds are placed on forms or structures like dinner-wagons—not luxurious, perhaps, but about as comfortable as the berths in a first-class ocean liner.

The cloth-weaving, dressmaking, and tailoring of the army uniforms is on view, and one may see the Salvation bonnets made, varnished, and trimmed.

The printing of their literature is done on the spot, and one may buy a *War-Cry* wet from the press.

A sprinkling of Nurses in uniform is seen amongst the visitors, and no doubt they inspect the quarter set apart for Hospital work. Under the charge of Dr. Arthur Hart, the Superintending Medical Officer, this department is already in working order, and a small out-patient room, surgery, dispensary, and Hospital ward is seen as designed for the Salvation Army. A staff of Nurses under Nurse Frost—whose military rank is not indicated, but whose nursing credentials are from Sir Patrick Dun's and the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin—at present carry on the district nursing, chiefly maternity work, of the Salvation Army. It is proposed to extend the medical and nursing branch of work into all foreign parts where the Salvation Army has operations, and to join to it missionary zeal. The Nurses are properly trained, and the pupils under them are allowed the privilege of attending the lectures at the London Hospital.

Throughout the Exhibition one cannot fail to perceive a feeling of comradeship and brotherhood manifested between all the ranks of the Army, and great courtesy is shown to all visitors.

Nursing in Irish Infirmaries.

WE have, on several occasions, been compelled to draw attention to the necessity of drastic reform and improvement in the system of Nursing the sick poor in Irish Infirmaries. The annual report of the Irish Local Government Board is just out, and we refer to it, to show that our criticisms have not been too strong or severe. We find that the Local Government Board sent down to their local subordinates a severe indictment, signed by Sir Philip Smyly, as chairman of the Irish Medical Association, in which, *inter alia*, it is declared that out of seventy-nine Infirmaries there are forty-three in which all the pauper sick, including the insane, are entirely in charge of untrained pauper Nurses, "most of whom have come in burdened with children." No note of answers to the indictment is made public by the Board, but we gather that the charges are not denied by the said subordinates. But we cannot learn that "the Board"—that is, the Irish Secretary—is prepared to insist on reforms.

From another source, we have a detailed statement showing the need of thorough re-organisation of the Nursing arrangements in the Mountmellick Infirmary. At the last meeting of the Guardians, a long letter was read from the Local Government Board, enclosing extracts from a report of their Medical Inspector, Dr. Stafford, who visited the Hospital on the 22nd July; and, accompanied by the Medical Officer, Dr. William Neale, J.P., made a careful inquiry into the Nursing arrangements at present in operation. He found sixty beds, of which, on an average, fifty were occupied. The class of cases under treatment were of a varied character; and, for a workhouse Hospital there were, in the Inspector's opinion, an unusually large proportion of the cases of a serious character, and requiring much care and skilled attendance. The staff provided for the Nursing of these patients, consists of one Nurse, five female pauper helps, and two male paupers, both infirm. The Nurse, Miss Revell, has more than a fair share of work cast upon her, and her

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