

the two lay nurses belonging to her nursing institution in Moscow is interesting. These good nurses at one time had care of lepers at Yakutch. We think a more practical head-dress would be advantageous.

It is scarcely creditable to nineteenth century civilization that wars and rumours of wars, should be one of the most prominent features of the close of the century, but, this being so, it is satisfactory to note that, as might be expected, the patriotism of American women and nurses is already in evidence. Should war be declared against Spain, says the *New York Times*, it will find the nurses and graduates of the New York Red Cross Hospital and Training School prepared to start for the front, for they have been holding themselves in readiness for the last two weeks in anticipation of a hurried call for

their services in Cuba. The arrangements are so far perfected, that the Red Cross Society is prepared to put 200 nurses in the field within twenty-four hours. Could our own English Red Cross Society do the same in a like emergency?

Should war be declared, a superintendent of nurses

will, no doubt, be appointed. It is interesting to recall the fact that, at the beginning of the civil war in 1861, Miss Dorothea Dix was appointed to this position. A circular distributed by her to intending candidates was as follows:—"No women under thirty need apply. All nurses are

required to be very plain looking women. Their dresses must be either brown or black, with no bows, no curls, or jewellery, and no hoop skirts." Does the plainness required refer to features or apparel, we wonder? It would seem somewhat hard to disqualify a suitable and capable nurse on the ground that nature has been kind to her in the matter of good looks. In a war at the present time, the black and brown dresses would scarcely be tolerated; washing dresses would certainly be a *sine qua non*.

But it is not only as nurses that the services of women will

be required in case of war. During the Civil War hundreds of women served in many positions in connection with the army, some being employed as purveyors, laundresses, and even spies. One of the most successful and reliable Union spies in the late war was a woman. Sad to relate in the end she was caught and hanged to a tree.



PRINCESS SHACHOVSKOV AND TWO LAY NURSES

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