

## Professional Review.

### "IN JAPANESE HOSPITALS DURING WAR TIME."

A charming book, which has appeared in time to form a most acceptable Christmas gift, is "In Japanese Hospitals During War Time," by Mrs. Teresa Eden Richardson, who spent fifteen months with the Red Cross Society of Japan. It is published by Wm. Blackwood and Sons, of Edinburgh (to whom we are indebted for the pictures with which this review is illustrated), and its appearance is most attractive in its pretty crinkled cover of a soft shade of green, bearing a red cross. The price of the book is 6s. net. In her preface Mrs. Richardson says of the Red Cross Society of Japan: It "is apparently unbounded in its sphere of usefulness, for in future it will not confine itself to that country alone, but, like Kwannon, the Goddess of Mercy, will stretch out beneficent hands and bring untold blessings to the shores of Korea and Manchuria. The scheme of organisation which is now being considered will, it is hoped, spread into China as well, and may be the commencement of an era of higher civilisation in all these countries."

Describing how it came about that, although a stranger to Japan, her services were accepted during the whole of the war, from April, 1904, until July, 1905, Mrs. Richardson writes:—"The explanation is that, although not a professional nurse, I had received a medal for services during the war in South Africa, and I came to Japan for the purpose of giving help where it was most needed, not in any way wishing to take the lead among nurses far more experienced than myself. Arrangements for my admission to the Red Cross Society were made in London by Viscount Hayashi, the Japanese Minister, and I undertook to be entirely responsible for my own expenses. (The maintenance of one foreign nurse costs about as much as that of four to six Japanese, owing to the necessary difference in food and accommodation.) I am also able to speak French and German, the latter being almost indispensable, as a large number of the Japanese surgeons had either studied in Germany, or learnt the language in order to read medical books written in it." Nurses will do well to note that if they desire to offer their professional services in international crises, a knowledge of foreign languages is almost indispensable to their usefulness.

The Red Cross Society, with its splendid organisa-

tion, was, we are told, ready for any emergency. Its efficiency was evident as soon as the great press of work began in the summer of 1904. There was no confusion, no lack of help, no leakage in the transmission of stores to the front. A plentiful supply of nurses was in readiness, and in case of need reservists could be called upon for service.

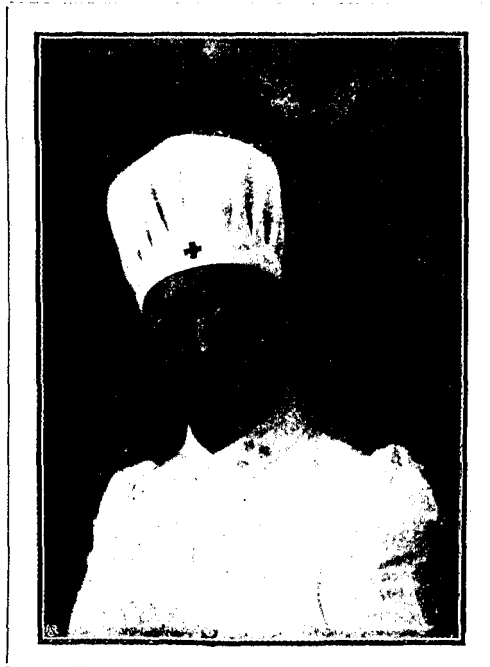
The description given of the inner working of the military hospitals is most interesting. The main hospital in Tokyo is, in time of peace, a training school for nurses, and receives both paying and non-paying patients. The staff consists of about 30 doctors and 200 nurses. The latter are admitted between the ages of 18 and 30, the training period being for three years. On graduation the nurses can, if they wish, return home, and take private cases; but for 15 years they can be called upon for special service in time of war, even married women not being exempt. During the war from 3,000 to 4,000 nurses were employed. Graduates wear one star on their collars and head nurses two. Miss Sato, the Head Superintendent, is alone entitled to three, to mark her position. They will be noted in the accompanying illustration.

It is interesting to note what the Japanese private brought into hospital with him:—"Each man had a shelf at the head of his bed to hold his little possessions, which included a fan, a toothbrush, tooth powder, chopsticks, and one or two very small cotton towels about the size of a dinner napkin stamped with comic or war-like scenes. A moveable board at the foot of each bed could be taken out and used for meals or games."

Almost immediately after Mrs. Richardson's arrival diplomas were conferred on those nurses who had passed their examinations. After the ceremony there was a Japanese tiffin, amongst the

delicacies served being fish soup, raw fish, chopped eggs, pounded chrysanthemum blooms, savoury chestnuts, rose-coloured ginger cakes, weak green tea and rice.

The author describes a visit of the Empress to the hospital. "As she may not be looked down upon all the windows were closed and blinds drawn as she drove up to the entrance." The Empress takes a great interest in the education and culture of women. During the war hundreds of bandages rolled by her own hands were despatched to the front. At the beginning of the war also the Emperor and Empress showed their personal sympathy with those who were fighting their country's battles by



Miss SATO.

*Head Superintendent of the Japanese Red Cross Nurses.*

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