

power as a graduate of that school to write R.N. after her name.

WOMAN'S WORK.

Mrs. St. Clair Stohart, Commandant of the Women's Convoy Corps, contributes to Saturday's *Standard* a most bracing account of the march across Thrace, and the organization of the hospital for the wounded at Kirk Kilisse. Hearty congratulations. With the conclusion of her article we fully agree:—

"It is impossible to give here more than this brief outline of the nature of our work, all done with improvised materials in empty buildings in a Turkish town, with difficulties of language and scarcity of food to be coped with. One fact, however, I should like to emphasise, that this work which we are doing is pre-eminently Woman's work. It was said at the beginning of the war that the duty of tending the wounded in the Balkans was "not fitted for women." To my mind this was synonymous with saying that women were not fitted for the work. Now, though there may have been some hardships and privations, as they are termed, which women are not usually called upon to face, yet, judging by the spirit with which these have been encountered by the women with whom I have been privileged to act, the fact may I think be regarded as established that trained and disciplined women are fitted for any work, under any conditions, wherever alleviation of suffering is the object. As commandant of the Women's Convoy Corps, I am grateful that, owing to the sympathetic help of Mr. Noel Buxton and his fellow members of the Balkan War Relief Fund, British women have, if only to a small extent, been represented in the work of helping to relieve the sufferings of the Balkan peoples in their valiant struggle for freedom."

It is reported from Sofia that Mr. Noel and Mr. Harold Buxton, who have arrived there from Kirk Kilisse, speak in the highest terms of the work done by the Women's Convoy Corps, which arrived just in time to handle the stream of wounded which poured in from Chataldja between November 21st and 28th.

TRAINED NURSES APPRECIATED IN TURKEY.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has been requested by the British Red Crescent Society to select two more thoroughly trained nurses for work in Turkey, as those already helping, both with the sick and the refugees, have been a great success. Arrangements are being made as we go to press.

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

We are not surprised that the King has expressed his regret at the falling off of subscriptions and donations to the amount of £50,000 to King Edward's Hospital Fund, as the London Hospitals have come to look for substantial help from the Fund. No doubt the Insurance Act is greatly responsible for this loss of public charity. So long as it costs nearly £100,000 a year in salaries to administer, by direct and indirect taxation, the public will have less for charity.

The *British Medical Journal* published in its last issue approximately accurate figures showing that of 13,731 doctors who have voted on the Government terms for national insurance work, 11,309 were in favour of refusing service and 2,422 against such a course—a majority of more than four to one.

By a majority of 182 votes to 21 the special representative meeting of the British Medical Association decided last Saturday to reject the proposals of the Government and to adhere to its previous decision to decline service under the National Insurance Act.

As January 15th is drawing very near much anxiety is felt as to how medical benefit is to be provided under the Act, not only by those compelled to insure, but by hospital governors, whose fears have by no means been allayed by the opinion of the Chancellor expressed at an interview with hospital chairmen.

According to an official statement issued by the National Health Insurance Commissioners, the Chancellor explained that the main work of the hospitals was not touched by the Act, inasmuch as the treatment afforded to insured persons under the Act was such treatment as could properly be given by a general practitioner of ordinary competence and skill, whereas this was just the kind of treatment that a hospital did not exist to give. Insured persons would need as much as ever the aid of hospitals in order to obtain the treatment defined as "adequate medical relief."

The following ladies and gentlemen have consented to be Vice-Presidents of the South London Hospital for Women, which has just received a gift of a site at Clapham Common and an anonymous gift of £25,000 with which to erect the hospital:—Adeline Duchess of Bedford, Winifred Countess of Arran, Viscountess Castlereagh, the Bishop of Winchester, the Bishop of Chichester, the Bishop of Southwark, the Bishop of Kingston, Lady Robert Cecil, Sir Edward and Lady Busk, and Sir Norman and Lady Lockyer. Full information about the hospital may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Miss H. S. Weaver, Cedar Lawn, Hampstead Heath.

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