which prompted the American Red Cross to equip these missioners of healing, and also have them feel how welcome they are personally amongst us. We arranged therefore that when they arrived at their London hotel from Falmouth on Wednesday in last week, a lovely bouquet of English roses—the sweetest to be procured—should await Sister Helen with National Council greetings, and we were delighted to find later in the evening, when chatting with her in the Palm Court at the Waldorf, how deeply she and her staff appreciated the little courtesy.

Human nature is made that way.

We had an inspiring talk with Sister Helen, and learned of the strenuous and pleasurable doctors, supervisors, and nurses formed into units, so that when they arrived they would be drafted for work in England, Russia, France, Germany and Austria, as required, and from personal observation of the unit we have had the pleasure of meeting, the businesslike genial surgeons, capable supervisors, and thoroughly trained registered nurses, a bright and intelligent band of workers, we opine that their skilled services should be well appreciated wherever available.

The nurse's uniform is simple. Grey gingham gowns for everyday wear, the proverbial American "white" having been discarded for practical reasons, although we hear "Sister Helen looked



THE LINGERIE, LYCÉE PASTEUR.

time spent on the *Red Cross* crossing the Atlantic, how splendidly disciplined and harmonious had been the tone throughout the nursing ranks, how earnestly the special teaching of the surgeons had been assimilated, and how happy all had been to gather together each evening in prayer, for a blessing on the work they hoped to be permitted to do.

When organising the destination of the various units to the countries at war, it was considered advisable that Sister Helen herself should conduct the contingent to Russia, as it appeared the most difficult bit of work, furthest from home and friends. Every detail of organisation had been well thought out in the steamer, every worker,

just so-so" when dressed in the white uniform in which she received the townsfolk at Falmouth, who were invited to visit the *Red Cross*.

For outdoor wear, Mrs. James, of Washington, has given each nurse a grey knitted cardigan, with which is worn a blue cape lined scarlet, and a serviceable blue felt hat. The military touch is attained by the use of two rows of gold braid on the collar of the Directress, and one on that of the Supervisors.

The whole contingent of thirty left King's Cross station for Dundee early on the morning of Thursday, October 1st (quite a few having already paid a flying visit to Westminster Abbey to see Poets' Corner) en route for Petrograd,

previous page next page