

The amount of money required to equip the Glamorgan and Monmouth Hospital for the French Army has now been obtained. The movement was initiated recently by Mme. De Guelis and a committee, and we are informed that the £2,000, which was required has been promised. Dr. H. G. Cook has consented to go out in charge of the hospitals.

We always prefer to give our largesse where we know how it is being spent, and are not in sympathy with the monopoly of funds for the care of the wounded, advanced by the British Red Cross Society, whose nursing organisation has always left much to be desired. Sir George T. Beatson has also claimed in Scotland that all funds subscribed would be better given to the Red Cross Society, a claim which we hope will not stop generous support being given to the Scottish Women's Hospital, which is being organised for foreign service by the Scottish Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies, a body, we feel sure, which would be very careful in the selection of its personnel. Speaking at a meeting at Glasgow last week, Colonel J. M. Penny, who presided, said:—"The outstanding feature of their detachments was that the doctors, nurses, and cooks were all women. Their funds at present were somewhere in the vicinity of £6,000. They intended to work three detachments—one for Serbia, a district where ambulance work must be very much wanted; one for France; and one for Belgium. It was quite true that in a sense this was not an official expedition, but it was an expedition which was very cordially recognised by the Queen of the Belgians, and it was working under the auspices of a very celebrated Belgian savant.

It is a pity that the War Office has not recognised the services of medical women in this War. The Women's Hospital Corps, under the direction of Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson and Dr. Flora Murray, have just done splendid work, both at Paris and at the front. Dr. Elsie Inglis and Dr. Louise McLroy, who are actively connected with the Scottish Women's Hospital, will add, we feel sure, to the lustre of the work of medical women on active service when they once get there.

The *British Medical Journal* gives some interesting details of the Russian Red Cross which is a permanent organization controlling the ambulance work in the actual sphere of operations. It has first aid stations behind the firing line, and field hospitals for further aid, and for the seriously wounded and those not fit to be moved. The nurses are called Sisters of Charity, but are not nuns, they take no religious vow but give their lives to nursing, receiving only food, clothing, and lodging. The Sisters are trained for two or three years before they are allowed to wear the Red Cross emblem. Even the well-to-do prefer to be attended by the Sisters of Charity. In the event of war the nuns of such convents as the Martha Maria at Moscow, founded

by the Grand Duchess Serge, Sister of the Czarina, offer their services.

The organization of the ultimate care of the wounded was too great a task for the already overburdened departments of the Government. In the Japanese war a League of County Councils (*Zemstva*) had been created and done good service under Prince G. Lvov, and Mr. A. Cuchkov, president of the Duma. The Government has asked the League to take over the whole of the care of the wounded in the interior, and the *Zemstva* assigned £600,000 to their own individual work and an equal sum to the League as a whole. This and other official bodies were co-ordinated by a central Red Cross Committee in Moscow. Fifty hospital trains are being equipped by the *Zemstva* League.

It can well be imagined how much the wounded soldiers arriving in this country by the ambulance ships of which there are now eight, need warm clothing, and the Hampshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society is making an urgent appeal in this connection. The superintendent of the clothing store of the branch writes:—"Garments most urgently needed are flannel day and night shirts, ordinary shape (not those opened from shoulder to waist). The sisters' time is so valuable owing to the number of patients it is requested that all those who kindly make shirts, &c., will put buttons on and not tapes; the same applies to pyjamas, dressing gowns, &c. Pyjamas to be made of dark grey or blue material, so that they may be also used as suits by men sleeping on deck. Winter vests, pants, mufflers, caps, socks, bed socks, handkerchiefs, slippers, crutches, and sticks are all necessary and urgently needed. I wish I could convey, but I cannot express in words, how thoroughly everything is appreciated, and how very grateful our poor wounded men are to the kind givers."

All parcels should be addressed care of Major Anderson, R.A.M.C., Red Cross Hospital, Southampton Docks.

The Servian Legation reports that new Red Cross units which arrived from the United States of America have left London for Nish.

It was one of those happy inspirations which seem to come so naturally to our American friends to send across the Atlantic the Santa Claus ship *Jason*, bearing Christmas gifts and messages to the children of our fighting men, and also for France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Serbia, and Montenegro. A separate gift will be sent to Russia via Siberia. When the *Jason* came to anchor at Devonport Lord Beauchamp, Lord President of the Council, and Mr. F. D. Acland, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs went on board and officially, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, and unofficially, we are sure, on behalf of the children to whom its cargo is consigned, welcomed the ship.

*previous page*

*next page*