

NURSING AND THE WAR.

Through the good offices of the Editor of *Wings*, the official organ of the Women's Total Abstinence Union, we are able to publish the accompanying picture of Mrs. Hankin Hardy, who has been doing good work in Serbia amongst the wounded and prisoners. Our contemporary states that "Mrs. Hardy, after spending some arduous months in Serbia, amid scenes of indescribable suffering and difficulty, returned to England with a warrant from the Serbian Headquarters Staff, as the Lady President of the National League of Serbian Women in Kragujevatz, 'empowering her to be kind enough to engage herself in collecting the requirements for one of the new hospitals, from England, our Most Noble and Mighty Ally, who has ever aided those in need and protected the weak who, in defence of their country and for the furtherance of the victory of the Allied Arms, have engaged themselves of all their resources.' The hospital is to be one of 4,000 beds and we understand that Mrs. Hardy has been able to secure, through the kindness of friends, about half the equipment required for it. How much her efforts have been appreciated is evident from the following letter received by her from the Serbian Minister of the Interior:—

"I wish to thank you personally for your noble efforts to help us in our distress.

"At the same time, I would be grateful to you if you would explain to the British nation that if it had not been for their self-denying and abundant help and assistance, we had been compelled to take care of our wounded and sick all alone. How could we have managed it, you are the witness. There is the reason for our deep gratitude and indebtedness which we feel toward the British nation, having experienced on ourselves the proverbial British nobleheartedness, which we had known before only from the books. The place

of honour in this help is occupied by the women of Britain, who have done so much for Serbia as we can never repay. Tell, therefore, the women of Britain that our admiration and gratitude for their help will last for ever.'"

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Union when at home on her mission, Mrs. Hardy said that after going through the Spanish-Cuban and the South African Wars, and spending five weeks in France during this present campaign, she had never seen such sad sights in her life as those she had witnessed in Serbia during the last four months. With eloquent simplicity she described

the way in which this sturdy, independent little nation is fighting for its life, and with pathetic earnestness told how she had found in Nish and elsewhere hospital after hospital crowded to overflowing with sick and wounded men—without food, without fires, without bedding or medical appliances, without anyone to attend to them in any way. After she had been at work for weeks, Sir Thomas Lipton visiting her could only say, "Oh, God, that such things can be!" It was easy to criticise the Serbians, but let English people go back a hundred years in their history and remember the state of things amongst their own soldiers before a Florence



MRS. HANKIN HARDY.

Nightingale arose. In Serbia every man went to fight for his country as soon as he heard the battle-cry, leaving everything; they were all soldiers, and the awful situation in which they now found themselves was not their own fault; they had been drawn into the quarrels of stronger nations than their own. She had only returned at the request of the Government to say thank you and plead for more help. When she returned she was taking out a shipload of things.

The chivalrous Serbian Government has not only decorated Mrs. Hardy, but also her husband for allowing her to go to their aid.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)