

ROADSIDE TENT DISPENSARIES.

The Serbian doctors are fully occupied in the military and fever hospitals of the towns. The country districts are thus without medical aid of any kind. The idea therefore occurred to me one morning to place a small tent on the outer edge of our encampment (on the main road) and put up a notice in Serbian to the effect that if people would bring their own bottles, medicines and medical advice would be given gratis—and see what happened! The result has been that

within four weeks this little roadside dispensary has already treated more than 2,500 patients, and the number grows every day. This affords a revelation of what is going on in the villages. From dawn till sunset men, women and children, who will have walked distances up to 50 miles, or if too ill to walk will have come in ox carts and travelled through the night, arrive suffering from typhus, typhoid, scarlet fever, diphtheria, as well as every other conceivable form of illness. Our doctors, who are entering heart and soul into the work, also diagnose and prescribe not only for the patients whom they see, but in some cases,

knowing the psychological value of a bottle of medicine which has cost a 24 hours' journey—for those who are too ill to be brought. One girl arrived yesterday, for instance, asking for medicine for her two brothers and her mother who were all seriously ill with typhus. She had no one to help her, and had been obliged to leave them untended whilst she walked the 24 miles there and back to ask for medicine. She started back again upon her four hours' tramp smiling with satisfaction as she hugged the magic bottle under

her arm. Another woman brought two little children suffering from diphtheria, and had left two lying dead at home. The serum injection will save the former, and be the means of spreading the good news that help has come to many despairing mothers.

We have therefore now decided to open a series of these roadside dispensaries. Our own hospital, wherever we may be, will serve as organising centre for the various units. Each unit will comprise six individuals, namely, one woman

doctor (the peasant women are shy of discussing their ailments with men), two trained nurses (with knowledge of sanitary work if possible), one woman cook, one handy chauffeur, and one interpreter. The unit will live and work in tents and thus (a) be mobile, (b) be enabled with a minimum of risk to deal with otherwise uninhabitable districts, (c) able to make its own sanitary arrangements. There will be eight tents in each unit. The estimated cost for each dispensary unit of six persons for three months including equipment and maintenance, is £1,000. It now depends upon

the British public how many of these roadside tent dispensaries we shall be able to establish in order to bring help to these poor brave patient peasants. I trust that before many weeks are past this idea of roadside tent dispensaries will be carried out."

Mrs. Stobart also reports that doctors and nurses who receive the patients wear long trouser overalls—closely drawn round neck and wrists, and with feet attached, to prevent entrance of the lice—made of batiste; and long boots.



ENGLISH NURSES AT LADY PAGET'S TYPHUS HOSPITAL, USKUB, SERBIA, WEARING THE UNIFORM THEY HAVE ADOPTED AS A PROTECTION FROM THE TYPHUS-SPREADING LICE.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)