

THE HEART OF THE CONVENT.

Bishop Bury (Bishop of North and Central Europe) writing in *The Nineteenth Century* on "the Grand Duchess Elizabeth and her new Order" (the order of St. Martha and St. Mary) says that "this daughter of our own Princess Alice and sister of the Empress is without doubt one of the best known and best loved women in Russia. Her tragic experience when she was widowed by the terrible assassination of her husband, the Grand Duke Serge, within a few minutes after leaving her drew all hearts to her in sympathy and compassion. In Moscow, where she was loved by everyone already, they gave her an even more whole-hearted affection, growing stronger and deeper as the years have gone on, in response to her noble and self-denying work among them.

"Last year when in Moscow the Grand Duchess received me at the Convent one January afternoon, and at once, as is the case with everyone who comes within her influence, made a deep and lasting impression upon me. She wore the pale grey and white robes of her Order, quite different from the entirely black garments and veil worn by all the other religious communities in Russia; and though as simple, humble, and unaffected as it is possible for a woman to be, she presented to me one of the most striking and attractive personalities I have ever met. She has a most winning and persuasive manner, and one cannot imagine any hardened and embittered spirit, however soured by life's hardships, holding out long against that pure and refined womanly influence. Her work is meant to be, and is, for

the very lowest class in Moscow, and it cannot but be a great advantage to have it directed and inspired by one of the noblest and wealthiest in the land. The 'great gulf' is well bridged over when highest and lowest thus meet together. . . .

"The Convent consists of a series of very plain buildings in a convenient part of Moscow. . . . 'In the very heart of the Convent is the Hospital,' the Report for 1913 stated. It might have truly said that it is the heart of the Convent, for it represents the chief work for which the Order was founded and to which the Sisters devote their lives. It contains seven wards, with operating room, bathrooms, and a lecture room where the doctor on duty gives explanations, and instructions with regard to hygiene, surgery, anatomy, &c.

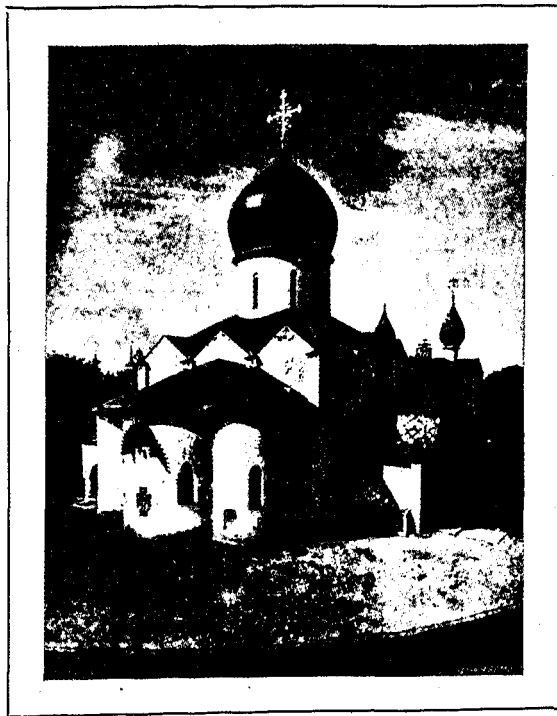
There is also a large out-patients' department, and a chemist's shop, where the prescriptions for out-patients are dispensed, either free or at greatly reduced prices, according to the character

of the case. This part of the hospital employs a chemist and three assistants as well as several Sisters, who are being taught dispensing and the use of drugs. The turnover for the year 1913 was nearly £3,000, apart from the gratuitous gift of medicine."

Mr. Stephen Graham, writing in the Christmas Number of the *Treasury*, gives an interesting description of the Convent of St. Martha and St. Mary in the Bolshaya Ordinka, on the other side of the Moscow river. "It is a wonderful institution belonging to the new Russia, and yet being part of the old; a young, dainty stem, with leaves, sprung from the rugged, many-wintered tree of the Russian Church. It is a new institution; it is served by young



THE ABBESS AND GRAND DUCHESS ELIZABETH.



THE CONVENT CHURCH OF SS. MARTHA AND MARY IN THE BOLSHAYA ORDINKA.

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