

people, and has new life, new interest and ideals."

The Grand Duchess Elizaveta Federovna is the Abbess, and there are about a hundred sisters. "Everyone is young, everyone is active. No woman over forty can enter the sisterhood, no one also who is weak physically, or likely to be unable to perform the arduous labours for and among the poor which the sisters impose upon themselves."

"The service in the convent church is open and free. All and sundry may go in. And yet necessarily one is in a way a guest—a visitor. It is a very gentle and delicate experience to stand on the stone flags of the wide church beside fifty or sixty maidens in white, and avow allegiance to the same emblems, praise the same splendid Creator and God.

"I came to the service, but I also wished to satisfy a desire to see the frescoes and wall-paintings by Nesterof. The rood-screen, the apse and the sides, have been painted by that great artist, and two or three of his most beautiful pictures are the surface of the walls.

"There is a large picture, the whole width of the church, a presentment of Holy Russia; the margin of a birch forest, plains and folding valleys and uplands and broad acres in the distance. In the foreground, bright green grass thick with purple labiate and yellow rattray, an opening in the forest, delicate silver birches on each side and tiny pine trees, seedlings of pine trees. In the opening, all manner of characteristic Russian 'poor folk,' gazing, praying, kneeling, crying. For a haloed Christ stands among the birch trees and receives all who will come to him.

"The Russian peasant believes that Christ wanders on his roads—

' the Heavenly King
Our Mother Russia came to bless,
And through our land went wandering '

—and he is quite right, believing that. The thought, almost by itself, constitutes the idea of 'Holy Russia.'

"A tall and portly priest with long hair, whimsical and gentle, took the service—Father Mitrophan—and he walked to and fro, now with the people, now behind the sacred gates. A score of sisters in black veils and with black crowns on their heads sang in the choir The sixty sisters in white prostrated themselves, and there was a billowing flood of white linen on the floor. And the black choir sang, gently, pitifully, sweetly, exaltedly, with *pale* voices. It was their church, their temple. They expressed themselves there as a maid expresses herself in her private room at home.

"It is good to have been at prayers with the Sisters, just as if one had spent a few hours in perfect mood in a garden."

By the courtesy of the Editor of *The Treasury* we are able to reproduce the accompanying illustrations of the Abbess and of the Convent of St. Martha and St. Mary.

WHERE TO SHOP AND WHAT TO BUY.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

Christmas would hardly be Christmas to many of our readers, if they did not visit the splendid bazaar of MESSRS. E. & R. GARROULD, 150, Edgware Road, W., and carry away bargains wherewith to decorate Christmas trees and fill stockings, to be rifled by eager hands. And while there, other departments must not be forgotten, especially the Nurses' Saloon. Members of the French Flag Nursing Corps, and other nurses proceeding abroad, should note that they will be able here to obtain everything they need.

HOSPITAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.

Then there is the HOSPITALS AND GENERAL CONTRACTS Co., LTD., 19 to 35, Mortimer Street, W., most centrally situated; and whether medical and surgical stores, hospital equipment, or nursing uniforms are required, the same skilled service and unvarying courtesy are at the disposal of the customer, and all the resources of this great business house, be the order large or small.

The nurses' equipment section, though one of the newest, is already well established in favour. Members of the French Flag Nursing Corps will here also find everything they need, and any nurses proceeding abroad will do well to pay a visit to this firm, so that if when away from England they need supplies, they will know what to order, should need arise, and may be confident that any order placed with this firm will be fulfilled with the greatest possible expedition.

MESSRS. DOWN BROS., St. Thomas Street, S.E., are noted for the high quality of their surgical instruments and hospital equipment and supplies of all kinds. Their catalogue should be in every hospital and similar institution at home and abroad.

The specialities of MESSRS. J. E. INGRAM & SONS, of Hackney Wick, N.E., are well known to nurses and valued by them. What more acceptable Yuletide gift could be made than an "Eclipse" hot-water bottle, as supplied by this firm? Then, for babies who require hand-feeding, the "Agrippa" band teat and valve should always be borne in mind—for a teat which cannot slip off the neck of a bottle is a thing to be prized.

A visit to the MEDICAL SUPPLY ASSOCIATION, 167-173, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., will demonstrate how many useful gifts, whether for hospitals, nurses, or patients, may there be found. Do not forget the khaki-coloured air cushions, or the hot-water bottles for which this firm are noted.

Nurses and midwives have learnt to rely greatly on certain firms—one of which is MESSRS. ALLEN & HANBURYS', LTD., Lombard Street, E.C., whether for surgical appliances, maternity bags, or Allenburys' Foods and malted rusks, which are invaluable in the feeding of infants and young children, it is a first favourite.

A popular and inexpensive present would be a box containing three pats of Lysol Soap, supplied

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)