

offered a Maternity unit to the Joint War Committee, and through the kind offices of Mr. Ian Malcolm, M.P., the Empress Alexandra and the Russian Government have accepted the urgently-needed help, on the conditions that Suffrage and political propaganda should be avoided, and that the name of the society should not be used in Russia. Charity suffereth all things and is kind, and Suffragists are the most reasonable of their sex. Many will no doubt realise that philanthropy—ever a makeshift for bad government—must be applied at this crisis of the world's history, when brute force is trampling all forms of principle underfoot, and will not take offence at this somewhat invidious bargain.

The National Union have secured as administrator Miss W. H. Moberly, and as professional organiser Miss Violetta Thurstan, who left for Russia on December 7th to make final arrangements, and they have also obtained the services of many highly skilled women whose experience fits them especially for this good work.

Miss Violetta Thurstan wrote from Petrograd on December 17th:

"I had a very nice welcome when I got here from a good many people who knew me before. Now as to the work. I found there was no choice at all as to place; they had made up their minds we were to work in Petrograd and had begun to build the Maternity Hospital, which is only a wooden construction—'baraks' they call them

here—and will be ready in about three weeks from now they say. There were about fifty men working on it. I went there yesterday with Lady Georgina; first to the baraks, where the refugees are living. They are enormous barns and 25 to 30 families live in each. It was pitch dark when we got in, but after a bit one could see that a scaffolding had been built, making it into two stories. You could touch the top with your hand and the people living on the scaffolding above could touch the ceiling with their hand. All round the room shelves were run and people sleeping on them and the middle of the room was taken up with families too. The sides, I think,

are considered more aristocratic than the middle, it seemed to be a little cleaner.

"It was exactly like a rabbit warren; they all came pouring out of their holes when Lady Georgina appeared, asking for things. Each family had a space of about eight square feet. Many of them are ill or want looking after—children with sore eyes, discharging ears, tuberculous fingers, bronchitis and so on. One little baby was dying. Up to now the babies have been born in these baraks, and so far no baby has survived.

"Close by these living baraks is the big feeding barak, which the English colony have erected for the refugees, also of wood, but clean and airy.

Anything from 1,000 to 1,700 refugees are fed here daily. Four or five English ladies are on duty here daily, taking it in turns to come. They get three meals a day, two from the English and the third from the Russians. Soup in the morning at 10, rasha (porridge) and bread at 3.30, and then some Russian Sisterhood gives them tea and bread at 6 p.m. But those who are not well enough to leave the baraks where they live have no provision made for them. The Maternity Hospital—which is next door to the Feeding Barak—has 16 beds, operating theatre, &c., but no place for out-patients; something else will have to be managed for them."



A BUCK-BOARD.

marvellous it is that with few losses the majority of doctors and nurses are at home safe and sound. No incident in the War has demonstrated more clearly the value of British grit, the quality that is going far to win the War.

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart has arrived, and is probably the first woman in the history of the world to take command of a field hospital in war time. Her history of the retreat with the Serbian army is heartrending, as it was not only the retreat of an army but of the whole Serbian nation, men, women and children all fleeing for their lives from the wrath to come. Mrs. Stobart rode at the head of her column as far as Ipek; she then

The more one reads of the Great Trek from Serbia of our British hospital units the more

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