

who has recently been visiting the Millicent Fawcett Hospitals Units in Russia, established by the Union for Refugees, has recently paid a visit to these units. The first is the Maternity Hospital at Petrograd, under the protection of the Empress. The building is provided by the Tatiana Committee, one of the leading war charities in Russia, which also provide the upkeep, and sympathetic help is also given by the Union of Zemstvos, a progressive body in Russia. But the N.U.W.S.S. entirely maintains the *personnel*, which not only is doing excellent work in the present, but also is strengthening the bonds of international friendship.

The readers of this journal who are acquainted with Miss Thurstan's book, "The People who Run," will know something of the work at Kazan, a Tartar town, where a Unit is coping with infectious disease, no other medical help being available for sixty miles. At Zaleshehiki, in Galicia, they also had a hospital for military infectious cases. The place has been taken and retaken five times, and Mrs. Elborough says that the autumn colours as she drove there were lovely, but the ruin and loneliness are past description. She emphasises that the work being done by the Union is constructive work, and the gratitude of the Russian is unbounded. The Union therefore appeals for funds to maintain it. We are indebted to the Editor of *The Lady's Pictorial* for our charming portrait of Mrs. Elborough.

Miss E. Glover, writing in *Una*—the Journal of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association—states that the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses "now deducts 5s. in the pound income-tax on absentee Nurses' Pensions," and asks if there are any nurses in Australia quite dependent on this pension. She adds: "The loss of one-fourth in an income of less than £30 per annum is very serious." We quite agree that if correct, this is a great hardship, and further, however adjusted, persons with an income of only £30 per annum are exempt from paying income-tax.

### QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S RELIEF FUND FOR NURSES.

We are informed that Queen Alexandra's Relief Fund for War Nurses has received a large number of applications during the last few months, all of which have been dealt with. Many nurses suffering from rheumatism and sciatica have been sent to Bath or Buxton and have in every case received great benefit from the treatment.

The house at Malvern, so kindly opened by Miss Hollins for the benefit of any of the nurses needing rest and change, has been full ever since it was opened in May. In every instance the nurses have returned from their visits thoroughly refreshed, both in mind and body, and full of gratitude for the very great kindness received. The fund has also been able to provide sanatorium treatment for nurses threatened with tuberculosis, from which they are receiving very great benefit.

## A WAR ROMANCE.

### THE CELLAR HOUSE OF PERVYSE.\*

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The ambulance arrived at Melle, about six miles from Ghent, where the main street was "cleared for action," and they were told that on no account must they go there, so it was drawn up in a side street right in the heart of the battle. While Gipsy was attending to a wounded man, "there were sudden shouts and the jangle of field equipment and a hideous scuffle, and all in the dark, right around the car, Belgians, French, and Germans inextricably mixed in bayonet fighting swept past. The car held already one badly wounded man, and it was about time to move, so when the tense moment was past they worked their way out of the town to go back. But in doing so they naturally came under shell fire, and hardly had they started when shells burst within fifty yards of them, crashing into the ground and exploding with volumes of sickening smoke, leaving great pits.

Of this day Mairi wrote, "It was most interesting; the shrapnel was screaming overhead the whole time—a most fascinating sound," and Gipsy, "It was a wonderful and grand day, and would not have missed it for anything."

Ghent, to which they returned, was not long a refuge, for one night Mairi was awakened from her sleep to be told by the doctor that the Germans were upon them and they must fly. They reached Bruges next morning with their wounded, and the stiff cold men had been unpacked and fed and laid in comfortable beds in the convent hospital, "when like a thunderbolt came the news that the Germans had entered Ghent at seven that morning, and that twelve thousand of them, ruthless men, without pity or consideration for the fallen, were hastening forward to Bruges; so all the poor tired soldiers had to be carried down again and sent onward once more. It was heart-rending work."

Eventually "The Two" arrived at Dunkirk. "I think I never felt so truly miserable," says Gipsy, "as the moment when we passed the frontier line between Belgium and France. I have left my heart behind me in that brave, honest little country. There is something about Belgium that no other country has!"

To add to their woes the friends had a personal grief. Gilbert was missing—Gilbert, who had so endeared himself to the corps that they felt for him as for a life-long friend. One day they suddenly saw a familiar green uniform on a straight, slim, young figure, with the head held proudly and lightly as ever. There was no mistaking that

\* "The Cellar House of Pervyse: A Tale of Uncommon Things from the Journals and Letters of the Baroness T'Serclaes and Mairi Chisholm." A. & C. Black, Ltd., 4, 5 and 6, Soho Square, London, W. 6s. net.

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