

the proprietor said tersely, "What nationality? British? Oh, we don't take British in here."

RUSSIA.

The first thing that struck Sister Martin-Nicholson, on her arrival in Russia, was, she tells us, the silence of the people, their gentleness and their courtesy.

She tells of the astonishment of the officer who met the little party of English nurses at the Petrograd Station (where the intense cold almost knocked them backward when they got outside) to find they had no furs. He explained the best place to get them.

"We all smiled as we thought of the few cherished roubles in our pathetic purses, for, he explained, we, like so many others of the nursing profession, got 'our chance' abroad because we had not insisted on a salary. Those who had to ask for one, perhaps in order to buy themselves necessaries before going to the Front, or perhaps that they might send a little money home to some one partially dependent on them, found that their names were not put on the coveted 'At the Front' list, whereas Miss A—, or B—, or C—, with, perhaps, six 'weeks' training, or even less, and an income of her own would be sent out, possibly to become useful, but more likely to earn 'Tommy's' terse sobriquet, 'A sobber.'

"'You must learn to say "Nichevo,"' laughed the officer, when, for the third time on starting, some refractory bit of luggage fell off. "'Nichevo" will take you through Russia,' he explained as he said good-bye. 'It means joy and sadness, therefore love and hate, regret and indifference, life and death. It means anything may happen or nothing at all. It means, above all, a perfect resignation to all that has been, is, and will be.'"

Here is an item worth noting in regard to the Russian soldiers.

"Their boots looked shocking, and I marvelled at the absence of foot trouble until I was told that the Russian soldier never wears a sock. Instead, he will take long strips of fine linen, soak them in oil or fat, and bind them round and round his feet and ankles.

"'Believe me, Cistra, it is a wise thing,' said a Cossack officer, 'and I have followed my men's example when marching, and have never had the slightest trouble. You should introduce it to your people.'" Sister Martin-Nicholson smiled at the idea of suggesting to the powers that be "the removal of Tommy's thick, clumsy, frayed sock from his tortured feet, and the substitution of soft, oil-soaked linen, which can be washed and dried and re-soaked in ten minutes, with never a sign of wear and tear."

The Russian sisters are, we are told, "the most charming in the world, courteous, gentle, sweet. But their methods are sometimes of the dim ages."

Much more might be written, both of Sister Martin-Nicholson's experiences in Russia and Poland, and, later, in France, but space fails.

† We commend the book to the notice of our readers.]

M. B.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRAINED MASSEUSES AND MASSEURS, LTD.

The members and friends of the above Association are arranging a protest meeting, to be held at the Onward Buildings, Deansgate, Manchester, on the afternoon of January 12th next. The War Office and the Almeric Paget Massage Corps have refused to recognise the members trained by the Association as qualified to attend on the troops when they need such treatment, which it contends is a great injustice.

MANCHESTER INSTITUTE OF MASSAGE AND REMEDIAL GYMNASTICS.

The recently-organised Manchester Institute of Massage and Remedial Gymnastics will hold its first examination for membership in London and Manchester during the last week in January. Candidates holding recognised certificates are eligible to sit for the examination. Further particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 71, King Street, Manchester.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOR ALL.

The Government announces National Service for everybody. The voluntary system is to be tried first, and if it fails compulsion will follow.

Valuable time would have been saved by compulsion at the beginning. For that is what it will come to in the end. The women are ready to respond to any demand, and the sooner the better.

A committee has just been formed, under the presidency of Mme. Emile Boutroux, for the utilisation of the whole of the womanhood of France, under the title of the Committee for the Voluntary Enrolment of French Women in the Service of their Country. She calls upon all French women to enrol themselves for service in any specific employment where they are required by their country.

LAST WORDS FOR 1916.

The Healing of the World is in its nameless Saints.

Those Christmas bells are dying
Faint over worlds undone
Yet Chaos fiercely flying
Knows that the Child hath won.
In vain would Earthquake, rocking
Red Ruin, 'stablish Sin.
It is the Christ-Child knocking,
Go, haste to let Him in.

—Walter Sichel in the
"Morning Post."

"Draw near, my friends; and let your thoughts be high,

Great hearts are glad when it is time to give;
Life is no life to him that dare not die,

And death no death to him that dares to live.

Draw near together; none be last or first;
We are no longer names but one desire."

From "Sacramentum Supremum" by Henry Newbolt.

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