

## MILLICENT FAWCETT HOSPITAL UNITS FOR REFUGEES IN RUSSIA.

In December of 1915 the N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W., appealed to its friends and supporters for £5,000 to send help to Russia for the sick and homeless refugee women and children. The response was instantaneous and generous, and in February last a Maternity Hospital was opened in Petrograd under the patronage of the Grand Duchess Kyril and of Lady Georgina Buchanan, the wife of the British Ambassador, with substantial help from the Tatiana Refugee Committee. Fully staffed with competent and experienced workers, the little hospital proved a veritable haven of loving care and helpfulness to many poor refugee mothers, and incidentally established such a reputation for thorough and disinterested work on the part of British Women that their help, in co-operation with the Great Britain to Poland Fund, was sought for in Middle Russia and Galicia by the Moscow Union of Zemstvos (Town and Rural Councils). In May, the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units were sent out, and a much-needed children's hospital for infectious diseases was opened in the old town of Kazan on the Volga, the

only other hospital being full to overflowing with two patients in a bed. After varied work during the summer, Dr. Daisy Stepney and her staff began a fierce fight against diphtheria and scarlet fever, which they will continue all through the winter. Scarlet fever is particularly severe in Russia, and is often septic, or accompanied by pneumonia, or erysipelas, and many of the little refugee patients have been very ill. But good nursing has saved most of these children, who would otherwise have died neglected in their miserable homes, and isolation has prevented their spreading disease in the large families of children that seem to be the rule out there. Jewish and Russian refugee children, from two to ten years, they all love the kind sisters, and dressed alike in the pretty pale blue check flannel

garments sent out from England, they smile up at them in a bunch "like little forget-me-nots."

Early in the summer the Units took over a hospital of fifteen beds at Stara Chelnoe, a district without a doctor, on a tributary of the Volga, where Dr. Alice Benham treated not only refugees, but peasants of many races and creeds, who crowded in daily from the surrounding districts. When she had to give up her voluntary service in September, Dr. Laura Forster took over the hospital, and she will carry it on until Russian medical help is available.

Dr. Mabel May is also conducting a similar, though larger, hospital in a remote and untended district, and with Dr. Muriel Kerr, is looking after 40 in-patients and up to 150 out-patients



GROUP OF REFUGEE OUT-PATIENTS AT STARA CHELNOE.

daily, many of them difficult surgical cases of wounds caused by the primitive threshing machinery in use out there.

During the summer the Units took charge of a holiday home at Suida, where the women and children could come from the Petrograd Maternity Hospital for a rest and change. They also took charge of two hospitals, temporarily without any medical staff, in a remote part of the district of Kazan. These were in the large villages of Izgara and Petropavlovsky, and had about 20 beds each and a larger number of out-patients. The curiosity excited among these peasants by English women was intense, and the interpreters were busily occupied answering questions about the ages, salaries and husbands of the staff, while wondering eyes and fingers tested the nurses,

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