

WOMEN OF THE WAR.

A most interesting and many-sided book which the war has produced is that by the Hon. Mrs. Francis Maclaren on "Women and the War." Not the least interesting thing about it, and an indication of the upheavals resulting from the war is that the preface is contributed by the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, who writes:—

"Looked at as a whole, these narratives are as good evidence as could be found of the depth and universality of the appeal which the war has made to our women, not only for sympathy, but for service. For the first time it has brought us as a nation to realise how large and how decisive is the part that can be played in a world-wide contest by those who are prevented from taking

a mere general description could convey. The brief accounts of their work "claim only to be windows through which may be seen that wide vista which has for its foreground the fulfilment of the great tasks of the war, and for its background a limitless horizon of potential effort."

The book opens with a chapter on Dr. Garratt Anderson and Dr. Flora Murray, principally in relation to their work at the Endell Street Military Hospital, which concludes they "will feel that they have worked successfully not only for their patients, but for medical women in general if, as a result of their demonstration, the doors of the medical schools are thrown open to women. That the majority of medical women working for their country to-day have been forced to gain their knowledge and skill in the schools of the enemy is



MISS C. E. MATHESON AT THE PRINCE OF WALES' STOCK FARM IN CORNWALL.

a place in the actual fighting line. Nor can it be doubted that these experiences and achievements will, when the war is over, have a permanent effect upon both the statesman's and the economist's conception of the powers and functions of women in the reconstructed world."

To cover so large a field as the activities of women in the war in more than thirty directions within the covers of one slender volume was a difficult task, and Mrs. Maclaren has done wisely to select typical workers, and in writing of their experiences to present a more vivid story than

surely one of the conditions which the war will sweep away for ever.

Of Lady Paget's work for Serbia much is already known. Mrs. Maclaren emphasises the point that it was when the German and Austrian Armies swept down from the north and the Bulgarians poured in from the east that Lady Paget had one of her most momentous decisions to make. She, with her staff, gallantly decided, in spite of strong opposition, to remain at Uskub and face the enemy. A friend wrote of her: "By setting her single will against the stampede, she turned back the flood of panic that was hurrying the wretched inhabitants of the town away to certain destruction, for the next day, when it became known in Uskub

* Hodder & Stoughton, Warwick Square, London, E.C. 4. 3s. 6d. net.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)