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EDITORIAL.

PROFESSIONAL SYMPATHY.

Some weeks ago we wrote Miss Venny Snellman, of Finland, so well known all over the world through her work for the International Council of Nurses, and offered the sympathy of her colleagues in the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Miss Snellman writes:—

“On behalf of the National Council of Nurses of Finland I express our warmest thanks for the help offered by English Nurses. All the sympathy shown and the help given us in these hard times are a wonderful stimulation and help. My personal heartiest thanks for your warm inspiring words and for unfailing international friendship.”

Since writing Miss Snellman, a wave of intense admiration for Finland's action in resisting with sublime courage the unprovoked attack of barbarous Russia, has swept through Great Britain, and money, clothing, medical and surgical appliances, ambulances and other equipment have been sent to Finland, and there is no finality to its needs.

At the request of the wife of the Finnish Minister in London, who has found all the necessary funds, the British Red Cross has collaborated in sending swift help to the sick and wounded in Finland. An aeroplane loaded with anti-tetanus serum, morphia, evipan, pneumonia serum, and other drugs has arrived safely.

The example of this brave people under murderous attacks from the air—and the destruction of life and cities—should inspire every neutral country in the world to associate itself with such valour. Whatever the result of this cowardly attack may be, Finland will forever shine forth as a lovely star of chivalry which conquest cannot dim. We have written once, and do not hesitate to repeat it, that the Crowns of Scandinavia are growing dim in the shadows of neutrality. Let us hope when this terrible test of honour for the upkeep of human liberty and the preservation of the human soul is victorious, that those who have risked life for honour's sake may prove that even in death they chose the lovelier part.

Soviet Bombs on Red Cross Hospitals. Nine Nurses Killed.

A *Times* correspondent from Stockholm exposes the horrors of Russian barbarity. He reports:—

“A revolting expression of wild beast instincts” is how the Helsinki newspaper *Hufvudstadsbladet* describes

the Russian air action against four Finnish hospitals. Nineteen persons were killed, including the head physician, when a 200-lb. bomb penetrated the military hospital at Nurmes, exploding inside an air-raid shelter. The attack was followed up by machine-gun fire from low-flying aircraft, which was without result. At the hospital at Hyrynsalmi, which was also hit, a doctor and nine nurses were killed.

“All the four hospitals attacked were clearly marked with the Red Cross. It is stated at Army headquarters that these attacks on hospitals are too frequent not to be deliberate. *Hufvudstadsbladet* writes:—

“These attacks reveal to the whole world not only the enemy's brutality, but also his weakness. This vile deed should arouse the conscience of the world, and is a wholesome reminder of the nature of the civilisation which the Soviet regime represents.”

Further attacks on Hospitals and the slaughter of patients and nurses, has influenced the Red Cross to remove its badge of mercy, to protect the inmates, as their murder would appear to be the special aim of Russian bombs.

In spite of the barbarous tactics which the Red army is compelled to employ, we British nurses cannot contemplate, without horror, four miles of frozen Russian corpses in the snow, without realising that each dead man may have a mother, wife and children.

Nazi Frightfulness.

Nazi frightfulness in Poland and Czecho-Slovakia is described in messages from Rome, Paris, and New York. Examples of the brutalities in Poland have been broadcast from the Vatican.

Further evidence of the barbarity suffered at German and Russian hands by the Polish nation has been forthcoming from a neutral observer, and from M. Folkierski, a professor of Cracow University.

Both witnesses lay particular emphasis on the savagery of the German authorities in the part of Poland under their domination. Two German non-commissioned officers, for example, were recently killed by some Polish criminals whom they were attempting to arrest after the criminals had escaped from prison. Immediately 300 Poles, including a boy of 15, were taken from their homes in the neighbourhood, and the next morning 100 of them were shot in a courtyard, being forced to kneel and then being machine gunned. The other 200 were kept under arrest for eight days, with little or no food and exposed to the bitter cold. The owner of the café in which the German soldiers had been shot was hanged.

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