

Nursing in Russia.

IN Warsaw, Sisters of Mercy minister to the sick, and, with a view to securing efficiency, undergo a certain training. It is more akin, however, to the novitiate of a Nun in a convent than the strict discipline which an English Nurse experiences in a Hospital; and after all, these good women assume the crown of a Nun, see to the cooking, patch the clothes, superintend the laundry, and perform duties of a domestic, rather than a healing, character. In the Military Hospital, among sick officers and soldiers, it is Sisters of the Red Cross who nurse; and well they look with the noble bars in red upon their breast.

Moscow Hospitals possess a body of women peculiarly Russian, called Feldscheritzes. The system may be studied in the beautiful Children's Hospital, one of the finest institutions in Europe, however hard it may be to get some among us to believe that any good thing can come out of Russia. These ladies work under the direction of the medical staff, but they perform very important functions and have subordinate officers under

themselves to do all grosser duties. Three Feldscheritzes work in the wards, taking temperatures, counting the pulse and rate of breathing, making urinary examinations, and administering medicines. Another dispenses all medicines in the dispensary. There are two more told off to take histories of those patients who came to the out-patient room, and the doctors proceed to base their examination and treatment upon this information. They are prepared for these duties by a regular course of instruction, including anatomy, physiology, and general science, as well as medicine and surgery proper. They very much correspond in status and acquirements to unqualified assistants—that much persecuted race among ourselves—only that they are women.

For a time, lady doctors were on the staff of the Alexander Hospital for Fever and Infectious Maladies in St. Petersburg. The feminine countenance invites comparison with that of the sterner sex in the great picture in the waiting room, of all the members of the staff, taken on some festive occasion. It has, however, seemed good to the authorities to end this system, and all treatment is once more in the hands of male practitioners.

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