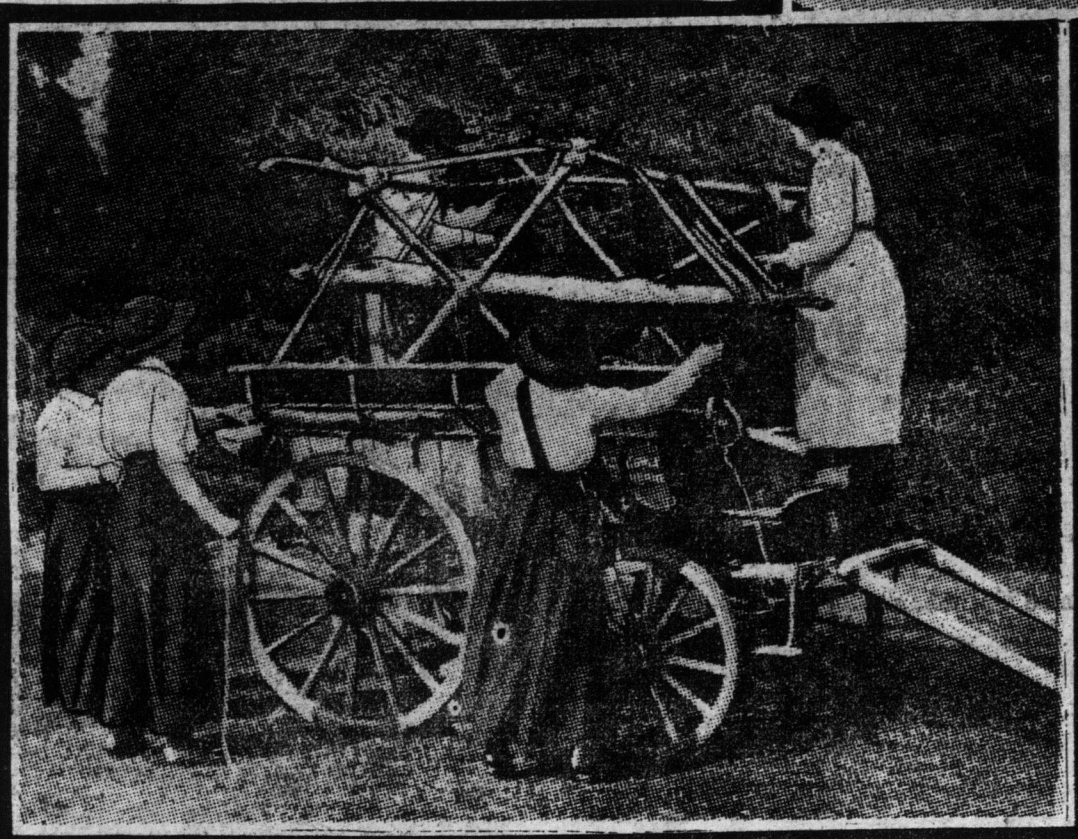




AN ENGLISH NURSE DRIVING HOME A LOOSE TENT PEG.



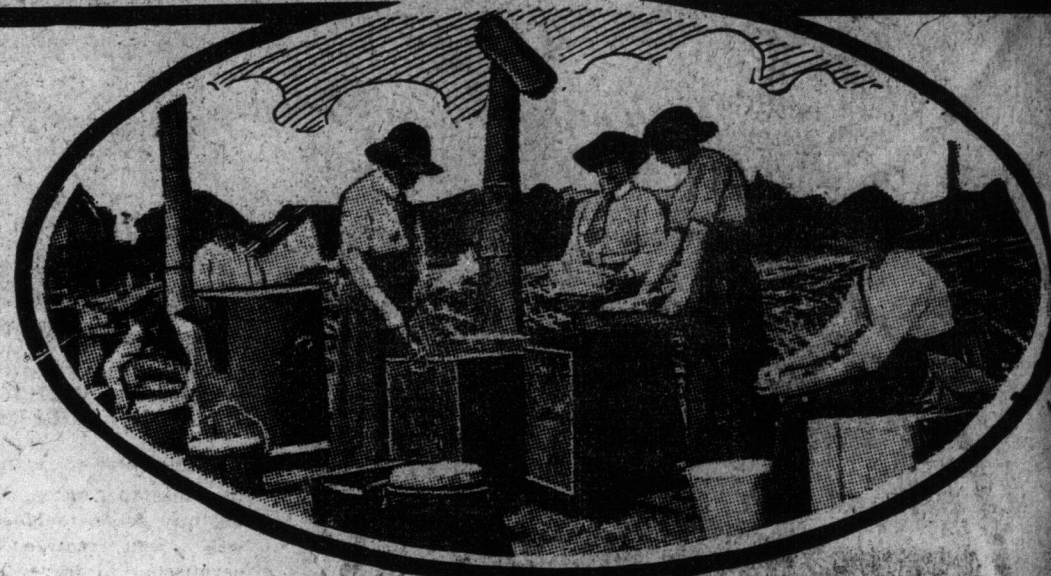
WOMAN and her WORK in WAR



CONVERTING AN ORDINARY CART INTO A HOSPITAL WAGON; TERRITORIAL NURSES AT WORK.

SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF ENGLAND'S CHURCH NURSING BRIGADE.

*Grim War Has Its Need
of Women, and Women
Readily Fill that Need
Whether it be to Aim
A Rifle, to Tend the
Farms While the Men
Are Being Shot Down, or to
Relieve the Sufferings of the
Wounded.*



ENGLISH VOLUNTARY NURSES AT THE FIELD OVENS — MAKING HOME-KITCHEN COMFORTS FOR THE WOUNDED.

By David K. Billings.
WOMEN can't fight." How many times at suffrage meetings, and anti-suffrage meetings have we heard that terse expression? And when the speaker had snapped it off he or she usually sat down with a self-satisfied air, as much as to say: "Now, deny that if you can."

It has been a regular standby argument of the anti-suffragist that "women can't fight." But can they fight? Women, by their intrigues or fatal gift of beauty, have been the causes of wars innumerable, they have been blamed when men have girded their swords in the old days of chivalry, but rarely if ever has the name of woman been found on the official reports of sanguinary battles, or in the gazettes of warring nations.

Boadicea and Joan D'Arc led their cohorts to victory, but it is Florence Nightingale that the whole world looks upon as the heroine of the battlefield. Man has been content to look upon woman as the ministering angel of the battlefield, or has left her to suffer in silence at home rather than have her endure the terrible sights of the battlefield. Surely this is the ideal part for women to play, the great neutralizer of the horrors of war.

Women on the Firing Line

But it seems that this aspect is to be wrecked, for during the last few months, in fact, ever since the beginning of the Balkan war we have read reports of the activity of women on the firing line. The little Kingdom of Montenegro sent its Amazons to fight off the host of invaders, while in the north of Ireland the women rallied to the standard of Sir Edward Carson, expressing their determination to "fight to a finish."

Now despatches come from Belgium



SERBIAN WOMEN SHOTS—SOME OF THE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND'S LITTLE ALLY BEING INSTRUCTED IN THE USE OF RIFLES.

further dispelling the argument that women can't fight, for we see them putting a detachment of Germans to flight, even if they did have to resort to the rather domesticated tactics of throwing boiling water.

The work done by women actually on the firing line has been almost negligible, but the part they play in war is so great that only those who really know fully appreciate its value. The King of Serbia, the King of Montenegro, and rulers of several other small nations invaded by greater powers, have called upon the women to defend the country from invaders should the men be overpowered, they have also been compelled to do the work of the men in the field that the crops might not be lost, and that the protecting army might still have food. England and many of the larger powers have recently started campaigns to educate the women to be of more practical use on the battlefield than they have been in the past. Their work now does not stop at the actual nursing

of the sick and wounded brought to them. They are now learning how to take succor to the distressed right behind the firing line, and a big camp for practical training only a few weeks ago was established in England, and during the two weeks of its existence, attended by hundreds of women, apparently with an instinct that war was coming in the near future.

This camp, the woman's county camp of the Kent voluntary aid detachments of the Territorial force was attended by women from various parts of the country, who went thru a Red Cross medical training, which enabled them to act as field nurses if need be. The camp was run on military lines entirely by women, although a drill sergeant from the Army Medical Corps was in attendance to instruct in the various forms of drill laid down by the militia department. The first graduates from this camp are now on their way to the front.

The first great war in which women took a really active part was the American Civil War. True, Florence Nightingale and her Red Cross nurses had done wonders in the Crimea, but in the civil war, while the enthusiasm of the men died down after the first year, and levies were made and bounties were given by the government to obtain recruits for the union, the women maintained their loyalty to the end, and an appeal for sacrifices was answered even more generously after three years of fighting than early in the war. It was in this war that the women were for the first time organized throughout the country to look after the general welfare of the soldiers on the field, and to alleviate the sufferings of the men in every way. The United States Sanitary Commission was the direct result of the work of the women of the civil war who, realizing the exigencies of the occasion, organized campaigns for providing soldiers with the necessities of life and for their comfort. Millions of dollars were collected by them thru the medium of fairs and campaigns and the work they

did was largely responsible for the victory of the North in one of the world's greatest wars.

Canadian Women

While Canadian women will not be asked to take up arms as some of their European sisters have, they have already been asked to help very materially in the present war. Their aid is not to be limited to sympathy and cheers, but societies and clubs all over the country are already at work to provide for the men who will be called to the front. A hospital ship, one of the greatest necessities of modern warfare, will be equipped by them which will not only mean many hours of hard work but many sacrifices.

The graduate nurses of Canada, a band of women who have spent years learning how to care for the sick and wounded, have volunteered to go almost en masse to the front. Only 94 of these nurses have yet been accepted but 250 others are being considered. The Sisters of Charity, the

Women's Institutes, and many others are at work making little pillows for the soldiers and preparing materials to bandage and dress wounds. Canadian women may not go to war but to say that they are unfit or unwilling to do so if their country calls them is unwise and we only have to mention the name of our own Laura Secord to remind Canadians that they are not without their war heroines.

All over the world women are now preparing for war. They are not held responsible for modern wars, that day has passed, but, nevertheless, the wars of today are more truly wars for the women than in the old "golden chivalric" times. Woman is felt from declaration to treaty, as a soother, a balm, and a helper ready, if needs be, to sacrifice not only the things that she holds dearest for the sake of her country, but working perhaps night and day to take as much of the terror out of the carnage as human hands are able.



MODERN METHODS OF ARMY TRANSPORT, AS USED IN RUSSIA. HEAVY MOTORS LINED UP FOR MOBILIZATION PURPOSES.