

## TOPICS OF THE DAY

**THE EASTERN CRISIS** There are too many crowned heads in the Balkans. In olden days some of them might have been in danger of coming off. Unfaith and mutual distrust are bad enough between nations, but when individual monarchs claim the right to upset the apple-cart they invite reprisals. Russia's solemn warning to "Ferdinand the Coburger" will bear fruit later on: it is a question whether the end of the war will find him still seated on his Bulgarian throne. He belongs to the lesser breeds that lie. When he and his egregious Prime Minister assured Europe that Bulgarian mobilisation was being undertaken without any aggressive intent, they were lying in their throats. And William the Frightful knew that they were lying. The King of Greece may also come to realize the fact that the day of personal government and secret compacts between reigning monarchs is past, even in eastern Europe. It is his influence,—and that of the woman in the case,—that has made Greece a defaulter as regards its solemn obligations towards Serbia. Whether Greece or Serbia will suffer most in the end is what remains to be seen.

**NURSE CAVELL** The latest exhibition of German frightfulness is the judicial murder of Nurse Cavell in Brussels. Like the *Lusitania* horror it has resounded through the whole world, and has done more than anything else to open men's eyes to the true character of German "Kultur." Here was a woman who had devoted her efforts and energies to alleviating the sufferings of others,—including many wounded Germans; and when her own time of trouble came there was not one among the ruthless crew that tried and convicted her who would raise his little finger to stay the hand of German justice. She was executed, almost immediately after being sentenced, in the