

present, the sales are small. Most of them say they have already a fearful weight to carry, and that this is not a time for reading. One of their officers, however, seems to be differently minded. Having asked why they did not buy the New Testament, and being told the same as the colporteur had already heard, the officer said, 'Children, perhaps this is the last opportunity you may have to get this book, and between times you have plenty of leisure to read. Make any sacrifice to obtain this book.' Some of the men, but only a few followed this advice.

"The hospital work is very serious and trying in many respects. The sick and the wounded may be counted by thousands and tens of thousands. We give a New Testament, or part of the Testament, or a psalter, to every individual that can read. It is quite possible that some abuse may be made by a few of the Society's generosity, by taking a copy when they have got one already; but we hope there are not many so mean, and in the rush and crush of the work we must risk this. I will let the colporteurs tell their own tale.

"After large sales in the camp near Braila, we went to the two hospitals, and were most kindly received. The chief physician went round with us to all the beds, and assisted in giving a copy to each of the patients. He then pointed out four Turks that were under his charge, and finally he told us not to forget to thank the Society for its great work of benevolence. Of the second hospital a Russian countess had the charge, and she most affably handed out the books, telling the recipients to read them attentively. All the patients were delighted.

"Two of the colporteurs visited a Roumanian hospital, distributing Testaments and Gospel Portions to the sick and wounded. A few thanked politely, but, upon the whole, here also the Roumanians showed themselves much more indifferent than the Russians. The following day these same colporteurs went to Cossoceni, where there were sick Russians. 'We bring you the Holy Gospel,' the Bible men cried out. 'Ah, we have no money,' was the sad reply. 'Whosoever can read shall have a book for nothing.' This worked like an electric shock. Every heap of bedclothes began to move. Those that could lifted themselves up. All cried out for a book. So the colporteurs went from bed to bed, with a word of comfort and encouragement to each. One poor fellow, in a very bad state, begged for a book. On his getting one he opened his eyes languidly, read a verse, shut up the book, kissed it fervently, and sank down exhausted.

"From Jassy the colporteur writes:—'Four new hospitals have just been opened; that makes ten in all; but whole houses are yet being taken and fitted up for more sufferers. Whenever I go to the large hospital near the station, where the men's wounds are dressed before they are sent on over the frontiers into Russia, there is always a regular scramble. The men so crowd around me that I cannot move, and as to going round to the beds of those patients that cannot get up, that is just impossible. It is heartrending to see such suffering. One day when a fresh batch of some hundreds came in, their clothes all clotted with blood, their wounds undressed, I stood at the door handing a copy to each, but I very nearly fainted at the sight and at the smell. Most of the men are very eager to get a copy, and when they have a copy, they will cross themselves and kiss the book, and sometimes they so squeeze my hand that I do not know what to do. Some of the doctors kindly help, and many have bought a Russ Bible for themselves. When I have done I generally pass through the rooms once more, and it is delightful to see the men all lying or sitting upon their couches, book in hand, reading intently. Surely this work will bring a blessing! The doctors and officers repeatedly desire me to thank the Society.'

"Going again to one of the Jassy hospitals one morning, the same colporteur, bent under his heavy load of Scriptures, was accosted by a Russian deaconess, who was on her way to the same place and insisted on helping him to bear his precious burden. The colporteur—apparently one of those that