

## WOMEN WHO WERE SOLDIERS.

London Tit-Bits: The war has produced its crop of stories, more or less true, of women who have disguised themselves as men, shouldered a rifle and fought in the trenches. One of these heroines, who did a gallant deed in rescuing a soldier, and, though probably she will not be allowed to take any further part in the campaign, she will go down in Russian history as a minor star—a follower of Joan of Arc, and some of the Spanish heroines of the Peninsular war.

There has been scarcely a war in which some woman has not had a part in the fighting line. During the Balkan war women of all classes in Servia, Montenegro and Bulgaria, who can handle a rifle as well as they can a saucepan, fought for their respective countries. A notable case was that of Miss Sophie Yovanovitch, a young Servian girl, who obtained permission from King Peter to fight like an ordinary soldier, and, dressed in military uniform, accounted for several Turks. A Belgrade school-girl, Milena Manditch, was also found among the volunteer forces raised by the Servian committee for national defense. She was only 17 years of age, and went from the high school at Belgrade to take her place in the fighting line, wearing an ordinary soldier's uniform.

Another extraordinary case of a woman in a recent war hiding her sex and fighting as a soldier was that of Xenia Kritskaya, a Russian girl, on whom the czar conferred high military honors for the part which she took in the Russo-Japanese war. No one suspected her of being a woman, and this brave "soldier" gained renown by saving three wounded comrades, dressing their wounds, and then reentering the firing line until she herself was wounded. Another Russian woman, Harrietena Korotkiewitch, donned man's attire and fought in many battles during the Russo-Japanese war, in order to be near her husband. She fought side by side with him in numerous sorties, and won the admiration of officers and men by her fearlessness. One day, while riding to the trenches with dispatches, a large shell struck and destroyed certain earthworks. Harrietena was seen to stagger as the shell exploded, and she was picked up dead. It was only after her death that her sex was discovered.

The British army has had its women soldiers, and two of them are buried in the cemetery of Chelsea hospital. One of these dames—Hannah Snell, a truculent-looking person, whose portrait is preserved in the great hall of the hospital, served in the siege of Pondicherry and was badly wounded, her sex being discovered when she was removed to the hospital. She became a pensioner and wore on occasions the three cornered hat and uniform coat of Chelsea, and was, at her own request, buried in the graveyard of the hospital. Christina Davis was the other female soldier buried in this cemetery. She is described as a "fat, jolly woman." Another Englishwoman who successfully posed as a man and enlisted as a soldier was Phoebe Hessel, who was a private in the Fifth foot regiment, and fought at Fontenoy in 1745, under the duke of Cumberland, being severely wounded. Ultimately she died at Brighton in 1821 at the age of 108. The most famous Englishwoman "soldier," however, was "Dr. James Barry," who joined the medical corps in 1813 and served at Waterloo and in Crimea. In 1858, after many promotions, she became inspector general, and it was not until many years later that the fact that she was a woman was discovered.