

is not an unnecessary one we are sorry to believe. The habit is one which most easily grows, and the facility with which nurses can obtain drugs makes the danger a very real one to them. We know of one nurse who said that the doses which "suited" her of the respective drugs were, 80 grains of bromide of potassium, and 60 grains of antipyrin, and these were the doses that she was in the habit of taking. It is unnecessary to point out that she must have accustomed herself to using them for some considerable time before arriving at this standard, which, for most people, would be poisonous. We think it behoves all superintendents of training schools to impress upon their subordinates the very grave danger they incur by indulging in the habit, and to insist that all drugs taken by nurses while working in these training schools shall be prescribed by medical men. The danger is perhaps greatest to private nurses, and here the good sense of the nurses themselves must be appealed to, as they have many temptations, and ample opportunities to indulge in the pernicious habit of taking opiates if they will. The habit if persisted in will rob them of their nerve, their self-control, and their health, even if it does not lead to more fatal results, as in the case we quote above.

DARKNESS AND LIGHT.

A MATTER which was recently brought before a meeting of the Taunton Guardians once more draws attention to two important questions, namely, ought infirmary patients to be left without a nurse on duty at night? and ought day nurses to be expected to get up from time to time in the night to visit the infirmary? We are of opinion that both these questions must be answered in the negative. A letter was received by the Taunton Guardians from Miss Withers, presumably the charge nurse, asking the Board not to insist upon herself and the assistant nurse visiting the infirmary at fixed hours during the night, as they already visited it whenever it was necessary. Mrs. Sibley testified to the conscientiousness of the nurses, and said it was absolutely unnecessary to urge them to do anything more than they did already. This is so far satisfactory; but it is obvious that patients who require two nurses during the day, require also the attention of a trained nurse at night, and also that it is cruel to require nurses to look after patients by night as well as by day, and the more conscientious they are, the more will they feel the strain involved by this antiquated and unsatisfactory arrangement.

We hope that before long the Local Government Board will draw the attention of Taunton Guardians to the necessity for making arrangements for the adequate nursing of the sick by night as well as by day.

The National Greek Ambulance Fund.

NURSING THE WOUNDED.

THERE is no doubt that the woman of the hour in the London nursing world is Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Sparta (Crown Princess of Greece). Born a Princess of Germany—of parents so noble as the late Emperor Frederick and his intellectual consort, our own Princess Royal—it is small wonder that, in this hour of trial for her adopted country, she should show forth the combined virtues of pity and courage. The personal kindness she has extended to the English nurses who offered their services with such whole-hearted enthusiasm in the cause of Greece and Humanity, and who from the outbreak of hostilities have been at work in the ambulance hospitals near the seat of war, has won their gratitude, while her own unselfish exertions on behalf of the wounded soldiers have elicited the warm admiration of all those who have had the honour of coming in personal contact with her. We feel sure that all nurses will be interested in the portrait we present this week of the Crown Princess.

Mrs. Ormiston Chant is to be sincerely congratulated that, in taking the initiative in offering help to the ladies of Athens—the outcome of which was the formation of the Cretan Wounded Nursing Fund—she has laid the foundation of a national movement. She arrived in Athens with her six volunteer nurses at a psychological moment, immediately before the declaration of war, and gave proof to Greece of the practical sympathy of a large portion of the British nation with their fight for Liberty and Freedom.

Very little news by letter has come through from the seat of war, but we learn that our nurses have done splendid and heroic work in Larissa in caring for the wounded, and also that they have rendered most sympathetic aid in the ambulance hospitals at Volo—where the soldiers and volunteers have suffered much from pneumonia, ophthalmia, and medical diseases, as well as from the terrible wounds received in action. The lack of surgical appliances and stores, and of comfortable bedding, is distressing, and the need for help most urgent. A charming little villa has been fitted up by the Greek ladies for the English nurses at Volo, and everything done for their comfort as far as possible.

From Crete a telegram tells of the safe arrival of Mrs. Chant and Sister Lees at the camp of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)