

## The National Greek Ambulance Fund.

THE reports from Athens during the past week have been full of interest; and a letter from the Editor, which is published in another column, will be eagerly welcomed by all readers of the RECORD. The warm sympathy felt for Greece continues to find practical expression. Finland has contributed twenty volunteers, some of them from the leading families in the country. Amongst them, are three physicians, and several Sisters of Mercy. One student, who was not allowed to leave, has given all his money to a young peasant who volunteered in his place.

There are four military hospitals in Athens, and at the principal one, opposite the Temple of Jupiter, two of the *Chronicle* nurses are at work. There are 400 wounded in this hospital, which is in the charge of Greek doctors. In a special ward, protected by an iron gate and sentry, are ten wounded Turks, who receive exactly the same treatment as the Greeks.

The *Daily Chronicle* Hospital at the Militopolos Villa, Piræus, is now in full working order, and is officered entirely by the staff of the *Chronicle*. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick is personally superintending the nursing department, in addition to the organisation of all the arrangements connected with the entire nursing staff. It is satisfactory to know that all the nurses are safe and well, including nurse Warriner from Volo, who is now at Styliida.

An interesting account of the hospital at Karvassara is given in the *Daily Chronicle* by Mr. H. W. Nevison. He writes:—

"There are two large military hospitals here besides the Red Cross Hospital, where I was given a real bed in one of the wards, out of gratitude to the *Chronicle* and its fund for the wounded. It was the first bed I had seen, or, at all events, had ventured to sleep in, for four or five weeks. But then this hospital is far the cleanest place I have seen for quite as long as that, for three English nurses are here, sent out by the Princess of Wales. A fourth, who speaks English and Greek, is with them, and they are under the advice and care of Madame Soutso, from Athens. Since their arrival in Greece they have been hurried to Thessaly, then back to Athens and on to Arta, where they petitioned to be allowed to go to the front, but were refused. However, they had hardly arrived at Arta when, on that terrible Thursday night which I tried to describe in one of my letters, the whole army and Christian population from over the river swept into the town in panic, and the nurses were forced into a carriage and driven off to this place, some twenty-five or thirty miles in the rear, for safety. As to their work, they complain it is scarcely possible to get anything done, the habits of the people are so confirmed against all that a good English nurse regards as essential. What are you to do with

patients who violently object to having their beds made, or their clothes put straight, and who habitually in their own homes go to sleep without undressing? In several little points of that kind, in matters of order, method, and cleanliness, they find it impossible to come up to the English standard. No doubt it is impossible, but I have seen all the Greek hospitals in this district, and, considering that these few English women have only been at work here for a week, I know that the change that they have produced on the face of things is wonderful indeed to everyone but themselves.

Of the skill and attention of the surgeons they speak with all praise, and there is certainly no want of doctors in the Greek army. They also speak very highly of the Greek's silence and endurance under extreme pain. I confess that surprises me, for I have found the Greek, like most winning and pleasant people, rather ready to exclaim and express his emotions, especially when in pain, instead of damping them down like us disagreeable Englishmen. But the nurses' evidence was absolute and valuable. What the wounded think of them I could not well ask, but I tried to imagine the sense of contrast in the mind of a Turkish patient, or, for the matter of that, of a peasant Greek from the fields, as he watches them moving about so freely and unabashed in their clean caps, and blue gowns and collars, and red cross and all, and then remembers his own poor women at home in their rags and dirt and servility."

In conjunction with this account from an onlooker, a letter from one of the nurses, dated from the Red Cross Hospital, Karvassara, is of much interest:—

"I am just sending you a note to say that up to the present we are safe and sound, and still in this place with the terrible sounding name.

The doctors are very pleased to have us, and say it is quite another place since we came, and certainly there is more cleanliness and order; and from an antiseptic point of view there is great improvement; but when we think of our own hospital we sit and sigh hopelessly—we do not even dare to compare.

Perhaps you had heard that this temporary hospital was the Turkish Consul's house; and when we first came through Karvassara the only patients here were three Turkish prisoners. One of them is such a nice patient man—we are quite fond of him—though of course our Greek friends say he is no doubt very treacherous, and if he could he would hurt us.

We are not very busy just now, though all the cases in are very bad ones; but there has not been any real fighting quite lately in this part, so we have not had any new patients.

Yesterday the English correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* called, but he had not any exciting news. He was on his way to Athens to get a fresh outfit, and certainly he looked as if he needed it.

To-day, two other correspondents also called—a Mr. Knight and Mr. Scudamore (*Times* and *Daily News*)—on their way to Arta. I did not see them, as I am on night duty, and so was resting; but the others told me they were full of interesting and exciting stories.

There are about 3,000 troops coming through tomorrow on their way to Arta, so no doubt there will be more serious fighting soon again. . . . I expect you have had later news of the nurses in

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