

The National Greek Ambulance Fund.

FOUR more nurses left Charing Cross for Athens on Wednesday morning in response to an urgent request from the Crown Princess. They were Miss Jane C. Child, Miss Emma Dobson, Miss Annie Victoria Latham, and Miss Sarah E. Collins. From the *Daily Chronicle*, we learn that the English Hospital at the Piræus is in beautiful order, thanks to the energy and organising ability of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Mr. Osborn. It is called "The Bijou Hospital" by all who see it. The hospital at Chalcis, with accommodation for eighty patients, in charge of Mr. Fox Symons, is quite full, and "doing splendid work." We learn also that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has consented to act as inspector of nursing at the *Ecole Militaire* at the request of the Crown Princess.

We publish below a letter from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, together with two from a nurse working in the English Hospital, Piræus, and one from a patient in the same hospital.

Athens, May 18th, 1897.

I had hoped to have found time during the past week to visit several of the hospitals with which Athens abounds, but every day has been fully occupied with the details of the organisation of our base hospital at Piræus, so that I have only found time for short visits to the *Ecole Militaire*, now used as a temporary hospital for the wounded, and to the great Military Hospital. In the former institution, several large wards are entirely nursed by our English Sisters, under the personal direction of the Crown Princess, who remains in the wards for the greater part of the day, and superintends with the greatest skill and devotion the nursing of the sick. I have had the pleasure of meeting her in these wards, and it is not too much to say that she knows every case—and better still, every man—personally. The wards under her care are in marked contrast to those in other parts of the building, and could compete well with those in our best hospitals; great care has been given to every detail for the comfort and well being for the sick, and the bright coverlets, dainty bed tables, green sun blinds, and lovely flowers, prove the sympathy of the Crown Princess and the English nurses who are privileged to work with her, and their desire to make the wards as beautiful and cheerful as possible. I hear but one opinion expressed about the nursing at the *Ecole Militaire*, both by Greeks, and English, and that is, that it is wonderful what has been done in so short a

time by our Sisters to perfect the ward management and ease of the wounded soldiers.

At the Military Hospital, there is great need of reform, no system of nursing having as yet been organised in this institution; it is dirty, overcrowded, and the patients uncared for and undisciplined. Two of our Sisters are working there, and working willingly and hard, but their labour is but a drop in the ocean, and the herculean task of inaugurating a modern system of nursing at the Military Hospital will be one of the great works which must be accomplished after the war.

Since writing my last letter, our hospital at Piræus has been in full working order. We have several severe cases, the results of bullet wounds, and we have had several successful operations, amongst them the case of Captain Birch, the commander of the Foreign Legion, who was shot in the thigh, and who is now the proud possessor of a deadly-looking bullet extracted last week, and who I am glad to report as quite convalescent. We have three other English volunteers, all going on well. The Greek patients are very good and amusing, and the way they roll themselves round in the bedclothes, and hop in and out of bed, as soon as nurse turns her back, is somewhat distracting to the highly trained English nurse, while to see the clean quilts neatly wound round as a petticoat, or worn as a toga, is beyond a joke. But these Greek soldiers are highly intelligent and amiable patients, and all try to be very English. Indeed in the week they have made much greater progress in learning the meaning of our words than we have been able to attain in understanding their language. Quite unexpectedly on Tuesday, the Queen, Crown Princess, and Princess Marie, paid a visit to the English Hospital, and remained for upwards of an hour, the former (who kindly sent for me last week and enquired about our work in the most gracious manner), is a very handsome woman, of most dignified presence, who takes the deepest interest in hospital work. She sat on the beds and talked in the most motherly manner to every wounded soldier, and expressed herself much pleased with all our arrangements. It is touching to see the manner in which these royal ladies interest themselves in the sorrows of others, at a time when their own burden of anxiety must be almost more than they can bear.

Our hospital is open to visitors every afternoon from four to six, and it is most astonishing the number of people of every class who pay it a visit, and the intense interest they take in every detail. The Greeks are great talkers, and the patients thoroughly enjoy the fusillade of questions to which they are subjected.

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