

### Nursing the Wounded.

DURING the past week Sisters Waller, Dobson, Davies, Fox, and Davidson, have arrived home safely from Greece, all in the best of spirits, and looking wonderfully well. They have brought with them charming photographs of the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Greece, and views and groups of the Crown Princess, Dr. Cambanis, the Sisters and patients, taken in the beautiful *salle à manger*, used temporarily as a ward for the wounded, at the Ecole Militaire in Athens. Before leaving they were warmly thanked by the Crown Princess and Dr. Cambanis for the efficient manner in which they had performed their duties.

The *Manchester Guardian* has a long and appreciative article from its special correspondent at Athens concerning the work of the English doctors and nurses. After giving special praise to those sisters who have been placed in the most responsible positions, and whose work therefore was necessarily more public, he ends his report with the following significant words.

"In due course of time these signal services will doubtless meet with some official recognition. Perhaps even more important than these examples of heroic courage and exceptional ability, is the admirable style that has generally characterised the work of the English ladies. The cleanliness and order that they have everywhere established, form an example which it may be hoped will permanently raise the standard of hospital work throughout Greece. The *Daily Chronicle* has been altogether extremely fortunate in those whose services were engaged for the Greek expedition."

We are glad also to observe that the work done by the *Daily Chronicle* National Fund has been most warmly appreciated by members of the foreign Press—the French *Figaro* giving warm praise to the organisation of the nursing department. The *Union des Femmes de France*, as we previously reported, sent to Athens a magnificent ambulance service of 100 beds in charge of Professor Faucas, of Lille, but it did not include any nurses, so that to Sister Flanagan fell the responsible work of theatre sister to this great surgeon, and splendid results, and experience, were obtained in the treatment and care of the sick.

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A Guarantee of Purity.

### Nursing in the Smaller Hospitals and in those devoted to the care of Special Forms of Disease.\*

(Continued from page 11.)

Now, why is it that all these small and special hospitals adopt this method of nursing, and offer such inducements, and why is it that the demand is supplied by so many women? In the first place competition is so great in these days that the public demands, and rightly so, to be well taken care of. Again, physicians know that with trained nursing their results will be better and will not lend their names or allow themselves to be connected with any institution that is apparently lacking in this respect. A third and most potent reason is the fact that training schools are cheaper and the pupils are easier to manage than graduate nurses. In fact, in many instances the pupils are a source of distinct profit, for in some of these schools they are required not only to do the hospital nursing, but are also sent out to private duty, sometimes for weeks at a time, during their two years' service, while the 10 dols. or 15 dols. per week which they earn goes towards the support of the hospital and school, and in some instances form quite a large item. This is perfectly well known, despite the fact that one never reads of the nurses as financial benefactors, all the glory and honour of that kind going to the managing body of the institution.

Perhaps the best excuse which could be urged in defence of the system is that more, and better work, and a stricter discipline, are possible in a training school than can be obtained where graduate trained nurses, or attendants, are employed.

Again, the apparently liberal offer of an education, and compensation at the same time, attracts women, good, bad, and indifferent, in sufficiently large numbers to keep the vacancies filled, if one is not over particular as to requirements. And perhaps it is too much to expect, that a woman who has never seen the inside of a hospital, should be competent to differentiate between the different grades of schools and their advantages. The compensation is also an added inducement, and she may not realise that for a present small gain she is sacrificing future higher professional standing and better opportunities. I must add also, that people have not yet quite got over the habit of thinking that if a woman is a failure at everything else she is at least fit to go into a hospital, and become a nurse, and unfortunately it happens that, although such an incompetent has no possible chance for entrance into the general hospital school, she is still received with open arms into the private and special hospitals.

The small general hospital, with fifty beds or more, is generally justified in having attached to it an organised training school. The so-called cottage hospitals found in the smaller cities or in thickly populated country districts have a comparatively wide scope. They meet a need which can be supplied in no other way, and their usefulness is at once apparent. One occasionally reads, in the nursing magazines, short articles in favour of the training afforded by these

\* Being a paper read at the Superintendents' Conference, Baltimore, by Mrs. Hampton Robb.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)