

A Hearty Welcome.

SISTER ISABEL CARTER has arrived safely home from Greece, and we feel sure those of her colleagues who worked with her during the late war will give her a hearty welcome after her six months' absence from England, and they will do so the more warmly owing to the fact that she was one of the Sisters accused by Miss Rider, in her anonymous attack in the *Hospital*, of cowardice and lack of tact. We quote the following paragraph from the *Times*:—

"Sisters Isabel Carter and Catherine Bull, who, after their arduous duties in nursing the Greek sick and wounded at Karavassera, and afterwards at Patras, volunteered in August last to nurse the typhoid cases left behind in the Zannion Hospital at the Piræus by Her Majesty's ship 'Rodney,' left, after over six months' consecutive work, for England on Sunday, November 7th. It would be difficult to praise these ladies too highly, not only as regards their nursing qualifications, but as regards the tact and endurance they have displayed while nursing, unaided and in a foreign hospital, upwards of thirty patients from Her Majesty's ships 'Rodney,' 'Forte,' and 'Gibraltar.'"

It will be remembered that soon after her arrival in Greece, Sister Carter was amongst those nurses ordered to Epirus, under the charge of Madame Soutso (a daughter of Prince Mavrocordato, Greek Minister to Constantinople). How these ladies worked and won the confidence of Dr. Ziemie, the medical Director, and their patients is now ancient history, and many disinterested journalists have borne evidence in the English papers to their pluck and energy. Mr. H. W. Nevinson, writing home in May from Karavassera, said:—

"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. . . . 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 Englishwomen 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."

On the following Sunday it became known at Karavassera that there were hundreds of wounded at Arta needing help, and it was Sister Carter who went alone with Madame Soutso to render skilled attendance. Here they found the hospitals in a terrible state, and Sister Carter took night duty in the Military Hospital, and did splendid work. The Turks could be seen just across the river, and Greek cannons were firing all day, and, as it was not safe to keep the wounded in Arta, Madame Soutso worked very hard to get them transported. The bombardment of Arta was hourly expected by the Turks; but Sister Carter, upon being ordered to leave the town by the authorities, declined to leave her patients, and was in the end permitted to stay until all the wounded were removed, when she accompanied the majority of them to Karavassera (which by-the-bye was sixty miles from a railway station), and then helped with their removal to Patras.

At the end of July Miss Carter and Miss Bull were on the point of embarking at the Piræus for home, when they were informed of the terrible outbreak of enteric fever on Her Majesty's ship "Rodney," then lying at anchor in Phalerum Bay. They offered their services to their stricken countrymen, which were gladly accepted, and for the last three months they have been devoting themselves to the care of our sailors of the "Rodney," "Forte," and "Gibraltar," who, admitted to the Hospital Zannion at the Piræus, have in succession suffered from this terrible disease.

We feel sure that Sister Carter would be the last woman to desire any publicity given to the manner in which she has performed her duty, but we are of opinion that it is only just that the public should know how cruel and cowardly has been the attempt made in Sir Henry Burdett's paper to depreciate the work and character of brave and loyal English women.

The Royal British Nurses' Association.

A SPECIAL Meeting of the General Council was held on Friday, November the 19th, at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square. Princess Christian, the President was present, and before the Meeting commenced said—Perhaps, before the proceedings begin, you will allow me to express my gratification in meeting you here to-day, and I am sorry that circumstances often prevent me from coming. I would also say that an erroneous view has got abroad that

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