

International Notes.

NURSING IN GREECE.

Miss Jessy Parson, who went in 1898 as Superintendent Sister to the Military Hospital at Athens, and who has, we learn, done very good work there, has, at the request of the Crown Princess of Greece, accepted the post of Matron to the Children's Hospital at Athens, which, besides providing special care for the young, is to be used as a training school for probationary nurses, and thus induce girls of the better classes to learn professional nursing. The oriental idea that work of any kind is derogatory to women, still strongly prevails in a country where, fifty years ago, all women were enveiled—so that it is more difficult than at first appears to make much progress on purely Western lines; but in spite of everything, reforms are being slowly accomplished, and the Greek women of the educated classes are so extremely intelligent, and charmingly adaptable, with manners at once so suave and sprightly, that they form the very best material for training, if once national prejudices can be overcome. No one who worked as the English Sisters did during the late war, with those two delightful sisters, Princess Zontzo and Mde. Baltazzi, can doubt for a moment that the emancipation of the Greek woman, means the advancement of the nation's welfare.

Miss Jessy Parson, in remaining to work in Greece, is doing a more valuable work by example than at first appears.

Miss Parson has been succeeded as Head Sister in the Military Hospital by Miss Franghiadi, a Greek lady trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and who accompanied Miss Parson to Athens as Sister two years ago. This would appear to be a very wise selection, and it is most encouraging to hear that the lessons learnt in Army nursing during the late war, are bearing good fruit. For instance, there are now four Nursing Sisters at the Military Hospital, who hold much the same position as in a civil hospital. They go round with the doctors, receive all orders, and are responsible for the treatment ordered being carried out. This is an immense step in the right direction, as formerly the untrained orderlies reigned supreme, with the usual disastrous results from a hygienic and nursing standpoint. We cannot close these remarks without referring to the influence for good of the Crown Princess Sophia in nursing reform in Greece; to her sympathetic initiative, and most wise method of recognizing the necessity for the best professional aid she can obtain to carry

out the practical work, are due the good results already obtained.

Miss Grace Williamson, trained at the Royal Infirmary, Derby, has been selected as Sister for the Children's Hospital, Athens, and will go to Greece next month. She has friends there and speaks the language, two great advantages to a nurse when working in a foreign land.

American Nursing Notes.

THE STANDARD OF TRAINED NURSING IN AMERICA.

An article on this important subject has been contributed to the *Trained Nurse* by Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, and is especially interesting because it directs attention to the same points as are making themselves evident in this country—the lack, and the need of a definite standard of nursing education. Writing of nursing in America, Dr. McGee says:—"To put it briefly, there is no standard of trained nursing now recognized in this country. If information is sought as to what a 'trained nurse' is, the frequent response will be: 'a graduate from a recognized training school.' But there is no authority that grants or withholds 'recognition,' and no one has yet ventured to publish a list of 'recognized schools,' or even to frame a definite, unmistakable rule that would make the preparation of such a list possible."

Dr. McGee believes that much good could be accomplished by the establishment of an organization of nurse schools on the lines of the American Association of Medical Colleges, regulating the entrance requirements, the length of the course, and the relative grading of students going from one college to another. With regard to nurses, such an Association should regulate the minimum number and variety of cases which it is essential for a nurse to see during her undergraduate training, the entrance requirements, the minimum age for admission and the requisite degree of preliminary education, and the length and amount of courses of instruction actually given to the pupil nurses. Dr. McGee points out, however, that such an organization as she suggests would not be an organization of Superintendents of Nurses, and herein lies a danger. Such a society as she suggests might be of much use, but the governing bodies of schools composing such a union would surely, if they wish to form an expert committee on nursing matters, depute a trained nurse to act upon it, and it is inconceivable that they should appoint anyone but the Superintendent of Nurses, who would otherwise be placed in quite an impossible

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