

and healthy baby. Needless to say, she was a most important passenger, as was evidenced on our arrival inside the Golden Gate by a number of callers, anxious, for various reasons, to make her acquaintance: insurance agents representing as many different policies as there are days in the week, and people with no other object than curiosity called to see the little wonder. On arrival in San Francisco, Miss "Pacific" was made the recipient of a handsomely chased silver christening cup.

I must not omit to give a few of my exciting experiences whilst endeavouring to give my tiny charge the little attentions necessary for her personal comfort. Many a time, in getting from one place to another with her in my arms, a big sea would wash over us, and the ship give a lurch, almost precipitating both nurse and infant into some most unlooked-for place. In trying to bathe her during a series of gales and hurricanes, off the southern coast of California, we had to sit on cushions on the floor, with the bath fixed between some of the ship's furniture, which, for safety and comfort, had been made fast to the floor. Suddenly, with a lurch of the ship, the water would fill the lap of nurse or assistant and leave the bath empty—an uncomfortable plight in more ways than one, for towards the latter part of the voyage water was becoming a scarce and precious commodity. The young lady thoroughly enjoyed the motion of the vessel, and should we be still for any length of time she objected, and would let all who were within call know that it was not to her liking.

A nurse who is to be thrown entirely on her own resources on board ship must use great care and forethought in fitting out her sick-room and in preparation and selection of everything necessary for any emergency, for there is not the faintest chance of getting anything when the ship once leaves port. In this case I attribute the unusually rapid recovery chiefly to the pure air and the total absence of anything deleterious in the way of imperfect sanitation. I may mention that almost the whole period of pregnancy was spent at sea, and a better one, or a more comfortable puerperium and labour, I have never experienced amongst the ninety-seven patients whom I have at different times confined and assisted with. The patient, a young primipara, had only four hours' true labour, and no complications at any time.

L. R.

### The Russian Red Cross.

Mrs. George King, who was awarded the decoration of the Royal Red Cross by her late Majesty for her services in the Zulu War, has just received from the Russian Government the decoration of the Russian Red Cross for her services in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-8.

### The Work of the Macedonian Relief Fund.

A report has just been received by the Committee of the Macedonian Relief Fund from Mr. Brailsford at Ochrida, from which we quote the following extract:—

"Our work continues to be uneventful save in Castoria, where Lady Thompson has had to endure much petty persecution. The scope of our 'ambulance' work (the word 'hospital' is forbidden) is still severely limited, and we have had to surrender the convalescent home which we had leased and equipped for sixty patients. We can take no more than thirty-five persons in the ambulance, which is usually overcrowded, and they have often to be discharged to their mud hovels and a diet of black bread before they are completely cured. The Turks have not got their competing hospital in working order, but it never has more than from two to six patients, recruited and detained by force. Peasants coming and going between our ambulance and their villages have been very brutally molested. Two sick women and one man on their way to us were beaten by soldiers just outside the town. In other cases women have been stripped to their shirts and searched and detained on leaving our 'ambulance.' In one instance a sick woman was arrested at our very door and carried by force to the Turkish institution. Indeed, for some weeks a more or less systematic attempt was made to prevent the peasants from coming to us at all. At the same time a police spy was quartered inside Lady Thompson's house, and her every movement was dogged. She was also forbidden to engage a room outside the hospital for the Nursing Sisters. During a recent visit to Castoria I had an interview with the Kaimakam in Council, and succeeded in conveying to him some idea of the impression this conduct must make on the mind of any European. The spy was at once withdrawn from Lady Thompson's house; she has been relieved of her oppressive cavalry escort, and an example was made of the policeman who had most recently molested one of our patients. Fortunately, the epidemic which provided us with most of our patients has spent its force except in two large villages, and by the end of March one hopes that the need for our 'ambulance' may not be great.

"We can as yet form no definite idea as to how much it may be possible to do in spring to help the peasants with gifts of oxen, implements, and seed corn. I am reluctant to touch on politics in these reports, but, after all, the whole question of famine and distress turns upon politics. Whatever steps may have been taken in Constantinople or even in Salonika to give effect to the Austro-Russian reform scheme, there are no visible effects in the villages. The havoc of last year began with the massacre at Smerdesh in May. I spent a night in the ruined village last week. Not a house had been rebuilt. To the long list of orphans and widows in need of special help it was necessary to add the names of no less than thirty-three families. From all I hear, fighting on a considerable scale is fairly certain to begin early in April, unless in the six weeks which its delays have left to it diplomacy can prove, not in Constantinople or in Salonika, but in the villages themselves, that a new order has begun."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)