

THE RETURN OF THE GREEK NURSING UNIT.

Sisters C. Evans, Oakley Williams, Nunn, Post, Browne and Baxter arrived in London from Athens on December 31st, all looking very bonny and full of grateful memories of their work in Greece and Asia Minor—where they have enjoyed a novel experience and the greatest kindness from all concerned. From the following letters the Unit have evidently proved themselves worthy of the best traditions of British Nursing—and we thank them for maintaining its high standards of skill and character :—

LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE GREEK ARMY OF ASIA MINOR.

To the Misses Evans, Browne, Baxter, and Williams, Nurses.

On your forthcoming return to the Military Hospitals of Smyrna, where you will continue your noble duties as nurses, I have the pleasure to express to you my sincere thanks for your true and effective aid that you have rendered to our numerous wounded of the Nursing Centre of Dorileon at which you persistently begged to work.

At the same time to congratulate you for your real self-denial, maternal care, assiduous zeal, exemplary devotion, and sincere altruism, which you have shown to the wounded; and for the precious assistance you gave to our Medical Officers, without considering troubles, exhaustions, and continual wakefulness. Your admirable conduct has attracted the gratitude of our fighters, who found maternal care, and fraternal devotion at your side.

Cordially thanking you again, expressing to you my best wishes, awaiting the opportunity to bestow on you the moral reward.

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

The Commander in Chief of the Greek Army of Asia Minor,
ANASTASIOS PAPOULAS.

Head Quarters of the Greek Army
of Asia Minor,
24th September, 1921.
Medical Department.

The letter was also signed by Colonel Canavasougos, Director-in-Chief of Medical Services in Asia Minor.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOSPITAL SECTION OF THE PATRIOTIC LEAGUE.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.—On the departure of six of the Sisters belonging to the Greek Unit, I feel obliged to let you know how grateful everyone, here and at the Front, has been for their really wonderful services.

The Sisters have all worked with their whole hearts. As for those who were at the Front, although they had to put up with many hardships and discomforts, yet it never let them hinder the carrying out of their duties in such a manner as to gain the esteem and admiration of their collaborators, and the love of the wounded, many of whom spoke to me with the most grateful words for the help the Sisters had rendered them.

I have always been a great admirer of the movement for the betterment of the hospital nurse of which you are the leader, but now I should also like to express my most sincere wishes for the outcome of the movement, as, from personal experience, I can truly say that the English nurse is worth working for.

I have asked Sister Evans to give you this letter on her arrival in London.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

SOPHIA B. CANACARI RUFFO,

President of the Hospital Section
of the Patriotic League.

Rue Adrianore 46, Athens.

AMERICAN RED CROSS COMMISSION TO EUROPE.

PRECAUTIONS IN ANTI-TYPHUS WORK.

The humble louse, whose annoying activities have been directly responsible for millions of cases of typhus and thousands of deaths in post-war Europe, is the subject of an interesting report just issued by American Red Cross headquarters in Paris. The report describes the anti-typhus work done by the Red Cross during a very severe epidemic of typhus at Cattaro, Dalmatia, resulting in nearly 40 per cent. of deaths among Russian refugee patients there. The Red Cross sent a special corps of typhus specialists to the scene, under Dr. C. C. Yount, of Pittsburgh, and Dr. J. R. Ransom, of Cleburne, Texas, and the epidemic was finally stamped out.

An interesting part of Dr. Ransom's report is devoted to describing the precautions taken to protect doctors and nurses engaged in the anti-typhus work.

"Protection of the personnel in the hospitals depends mainly on the efficiency of the disinfecting squad," writes Dr. Ransom. "Typhus is not directly infectious—it can only be carried by the medium of the louse. Therefore if patients are properly disinfected there is absolutely no danger to the hospital personnel. In this respect typhus is similar to malaria. There is no danger from a patient with malaria, nor is there any danger from a patient with typhus.

"At our station in Milina, on Cattero Bay, every refugee was put through a delouser. All the hair was clipped close, and the patient was scrubbed thoroughly with soap and hot running water. The body was anointed with kerosene or coal-oil. Clean pyjamas were placed on the patient and he was wrapped in a clean blanket and transferred to his bed in the hospital. His clothes were put through a pressure steam sterilizer, and furs were put through a sulphur bath. In this way only louse-free patients arrived at the hospital.

"Any person finding a louse on a patient or on the clothing of the personnel was required to report this immediately to the physician in charge of the hospital or to the chief nurse, at which time special steps were taken to discover from what source the louse came.

"It is seldom necessary for physicians or nurses to expose themselves by handling louse-infected patients and articles of clothing, as there are always present persons who have had typhus, who can handle typhus patients and their clothing.

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