

corridor has to be washed entirely over with carbolic, and this boy certainly does them very well; he has a large piece of sacking folded in two and sewn round, this is dipped in the pail of carbolic, and then swished backwards and forwards in this way, the whole ward and corridor is washed in a very short time. When dry, it is swept again and, afterwards, another piece of sacking, only damped very slightly is swung evenly over the floors. The entire flooring of the Hospital every morning has to be cleaned in this manner, and the Arabs, who do this work, take great pride in having their part spotless. Of course we have our days for regular cleaning, and three times a week the ironwork of each bed has to be washed over with petroleum, to try and keep off the mosquitoes. I think one of the most amusing sights is to watch about six Arabs who have been sent into the ward on purpose for a good clean. As a rule they do not hurt themselves with overwork, but on these occasions they do well, and seem thoroughly happy, kneeling and scrubbing, also singing and smoking at the same time. If you really want them to do their work well they must be allowed to smoke. An Arab never does anything properly unless he has a pipe in his mouth, and the patients have stated hours for indulging in this habit, which to them seems absolutely necessary. It used to be a great trial to me at first, but, like everything else, one gets used to it; but often at night after I have left the ward, and then returned suddenly, I have seen a very suspicious light, which instantly disappeared, and one night I found it had a resting place under the pillow. Since then I have had all matches and cigars taken away after a certain hour; occasionally the first-class female patients have to be allowed a little license on the subject; but, on the whole, the patients are very well behaved in this matter. One of my servants has been in the Hospital for twelve years, and before that time he was, I believe, a very faithful servant to our head doctor for many years, and his affection for his master is quite touching. He is very clever and is responsible for the cleaning of the operation room and sterilization of the dressings, and at times he can, when we are very busy indeed, dress and bandage wounds like a surgeon. I have also another excellent servant; he is not so black as the former, but, if anything, more clean, and very intelligent; he has been here for nine years, since he was quite a boy, and has been gradually promoted until now he has, as chief Nurse in my ward, the second place on the Nursing staff. He has, in the time I have been here, learnt English from me, and he now understands anything I say to him, besides speaking French, Italian, Greek, and Arabic, of course, and he keeps splendid order in the ward, although the patients like him so much, as he is always kind and very gentle to them. The Hospital is really for Greeks, and all our medical men and the Committee are Greeks, but we have a great number of Arab and Italian patients as well. I think the latter give the most trouble, and never seem to be pleased or satisfied, especially the women. At first it was very confusing being in the midst of so many languages, and it made one feel very insignificant, when every little dirty Arab could speak at least four different languages which I could not understand; but the ear soon gets accustomed to the sounds, and now, although I cannot speak very much Greek, Arabic, or Italian, still I am able

to make the patients understand. I think, really, that Italian is the most useful language here, as almost every one can speak it. I have, at the present time, a first-class patient who understands equally well Italian, French, Arabic, Maltese, Greek, English, and Russian—not excluding German, which is his native tongue. We have a great number of operations, but here the doctors make their visits, and all the operations are done, in the morning, and generally finished by 2 o'clock. I have the care of all the instruments—to put out the right ones, sterilize them, and hand them to the operator, and to be responsible for everything. At first, I used to spend many a sleepless night with anxiety and the fear of forgetting something; but now I have become so accustomed to the management of these operations that I sometimes think I could hand the right ones with my eyes shut. I enter every one in a book with the patient's name and age, and since January 1st we have had over 200 operations; out of this, 40 have been gynæcological, and out of the latter number, 3 were for hysterectomy and 14 laparotomy. One great complaint of this country is abscess of the liver, and we have had some very good cases, the operation being most successful. Our dressings are very simple: either iodoform gauze or pads of sterilized white gauze, then wool and a piece of Billroth's batiste, and, lastly, the bandage of gauze like the pads, which has been kept in a bottle of salicylic, 1—1000. The sponges used are wool in this same gauze, but I am responsible for the preparation of them in the following manner: twice in 24 hours they are boiled for one hour (and also the compresses, of which we use a quantity) in 1—1000 sublimate, then put into glass jars, in the same strength of sublimate, which is changed every two days. The floor of the operation room, like the corridor, is stone, and just before each operation it is swished all over with sublimate. When I came here, the table used was an ordinary wooden one; but now it is made of glass and metal, and was, I believe, very expensive. We have also glass on all the tables, stools, and shelves. We have a smaller room, next to the general theatre, in which the female operations are done; but at present the table is not yet finished for it. All surgical patients who are well enough, are taken to a dressing room, where, after ten in the morning, everything is in readiness for them—women first and then the men. The doctors are nearly all Greeks, but we often have medical men of all nations coming to see some special operation, and, only a week ago, in the operation room, five languages were being spoken. Very often, the English doctors from the Military Hospital come; they have an interest here, as we have a contract with the English government to take the wives of the sergeants for confinements, and very often their children for ordinary illnesses—they are always second class patients at five francs a day. At operations the doctors wear long brown-holland blouses, and aprons of batiste, and the Sisters also have long blouses, which entirely cover over the dresses, these are all previously well sterilized. I have now been here just one year, and originally came to take the place of Third Sister in the medical ward, but, upon my arrival, found that the two who were at that time in the hospital, intended leaving after three months, to open a private nursing home, and, after I had been here a short time, the head post was offered to me. I do not

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