

Kingdom or has been accorded self-governing powers subject to a merely nominal suzerainty on the part of the Sultan.

In Crete, the fact that the Christian and Mahomedan populations were more even in numbers than in other provinces has rendered the struggle between the oppressors and the oppressed more persistent, and at the same time more destructive, than elsewhere. During the last year, the chronic insurrection against the misgovernment of the Turk has assumed such widespread dimensions that matters have become critical; and the great Powers of Europe, which are, for the most part, ceaselessly striving to hold the grim spectre of war at arm's length, have realised that continued disturbances in Crete must almost inevitably lead to a general conflagration. Consequently, acting in concert, they have determined that Crete should be made entirely independent of Turkish authority, and that the inhabitants of the island should in future be permitted to govern themselves alone. Turkey apparently has bowed to the inevitable, and it recently seemed possible that in a short time Turkish troops would have left Crete and that the rule of the Sultan over it would have ceased for ever. The insurgents, however, despairing of such a result had appealed to Greece, which the majority of the Christian inhabitants look upon as their mother country, for help; and, just when the deliverance of Crete appeared to be imminent, a large body of Greek troops were suddenly despatched to the island and, making common cause with the insurgents in various localities, attacked the Turkish troops. It is needless to recall the fact that the Greeks have for many years claimed that Crete should be annexed to their country, nor is it possible to deny that the object of the present invasion of Crete on their part was to bring about such an annexation.

It is beyond our province to discuss the question whether or not the Greeks were justified in thus invading a province still belonging to Turkey, when Turkey is not openly at war with them. Suffice it for us to know that there are, at present, a large number of sick and wounded fellow-creatures in Crete who are unprovided with proper care and Nursing; and that men and women of different nations who sympathise with the Greeks, or with the Cretans, or with both, or who, at any rate, feel an ardent desire to alleviate suffering wherever it exists, have

determined to do so now, so far as in their power lies, simply in the name of Christian humanity and in a method devoid of all political significance. The leaders of this movement have turned to England, and to British Nurses; and have applied to us for our assistance in selecting from amongst the trained women who are sure to volunteer for such work, those who are most suitable for the service. Feeling that the matter is one which appeals to Englishwomen of all parties, and all political views, we have had much pleasure in promising to give all the assistance in our power; and feel that we need only bring the need of volunteers to the notice of our readers to ensure an immediate and large response being made.

Lectures on Elementary Physiology, in relation to Medical Nursing.

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LECTURE V.—THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

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WE pass on now to briefly consider some of the chronic diseases of the brain with which Nurses meet. Most of these occur in old age, although at least one—that known as “softening of the brain”—may happen in middle life as a consequence of acute mischief, for example after an attack of apoplexy. It is usually caused, in that case, either by an effusion of blood into the substance of the brain, or in consequence of the interference with the nutrition of the organ due to a block of one of the main arteries.

In the form, however, to which the term “softening of the brain” is most correctly, and most usually applied, the patient exhibits slowly but steadily increasing signs of failing powers—intellectual and physical. For example, his walk becomes more and more weak and unsteady, and this perhaps is more marked on some days than others; but it steadily tends to get worse, month after month. He describes his feet as “feeling too heavy” for him and that he can “hardly drag himself along”; and so the walk becomes a mere slow shuffle. The weakness of the lower limbs is accompanied by similar feebleness of all the other muscles of the body; the grasp of the hands becomes weaker, and the

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