

A Nursing Corps for Crete.

MATTERS move rapidly in these days. Last week we announced that we had been invited to select and equip six nurses for active service in Crete, and before this week's RECORD is in the hands of its readers, Mrs Ormiston Chant and the corps of nurses whom we have thus chosen will be well on their way to Athens, having left Charing Cross on Thursday morning amidst loving and enthusiastic farewells from numerous friends and well-wishers, and the hearty cheers of interested spectators. The trim uniforms excited much admiration; the interest shown in the expedition was intense, and many, not personally acquainted with Mrs. Chant and the nurses, found their way to the saloon marked with the red cross, to wish them God speed.

Amongst those present were the Lady Henry Somerset (who announced a donation of £200, £100 from her own Women's Society, and £100 from the Women of America), Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Pearsall Smith, Miss Ridley, Miss Cartwright, and many others.

The nurses who accompanied Mrs. Chant were:—Miss Lavinia Fawkes, Miss Beatrix Farnsworth, Miss Charlotte Flanagan, and Miss Lillie Warriner of the Registered Nurses' Society. Sister Lilian Lees (Cert. King's College Hospital), of the New Infirmary, Lewisham, and Miss Emma Curtis (Cert. Royal Free Hospital), of the London Association of Nurses.

Before leaving London Mrs. Chant received a most kind letter from Miss Florence Nightingale, wishing her success on her journey, and the Foreign Office gave her official instructions, recommending her and the corps of nurses to the kindness of Sir Alfred Biliotti at Canea, and Sir L. H. Egerton at Athens. From the Admiralty she received an introduction to Rear-Admiral Harris, of Her Majesty's Ship *Revenge*, so that we feel sure every care and attention, as far as possible, will be paid to our nurses, and, indeed, a more cheery party never left home for the seat of war, or presented a more neat, sedate, yet smart appearance than this little band of British nurses. Mrs. Chant, who is a most experienced traveller, has, with kindly forethought, made admirable arrangements for the comfort of the party, who will rest one night in Milan, before continuing their journey *via* Brindisi, across the lovely Ionian Sea to Athens.

We designed and selected the uniforms with a view, of course, to usefulness as well as appearance; Mrs. Chant had an outfit of grey with a touch of scarlet in the cloak and bonnet; the nurses, a uniform consisting of a dark blue travelling gown, with scarlet band and buttons, blue cloak of a somewhat military cut, the cape

lined throughout with scarlet, and blue bonnets with a touch of scarlet to match, relieved with white caps and strings. Each nurse wears the red Geneva Cross on her arm. Our design and wishes were carried out with admirable skill and promptitude by Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, of Wigmore Street, who measured, made and finished the suits in forty-eight hours. The kit bags provided were most capacious and serviceable, and we have to thank Messrs. Pound, of Tottenham Court Road, for generously remitting 15 per cent. on their cost; indeed, the greatest courtesy and interest was evinced by all concerned in turning out the nurses' outfit to time.

In response to the appeal for the Cretan Wounded Nursing Fund, opened by the *Daily Chronicle*, nearly £600 has already been received, and owing to the generous sympathy of Lady Henry Somerset ample funds have been placed at the disposal of the Treasurer of the Fund to meet immediate needs. On Sunday, at Pembroke Chapel, Liverpool, the Rev. C. F. Aked made an appeal on behalf of the Cretan Nursing Fund, and the congregation passed the following resolution:—

"This congregation heartily congratulates Mrs. Ormiston Chant and her heroic colleagues upon their determination to run the blockade of Crete, and to offer their services as nurses to the sick and wounded. The congregation calls to mind the immortal name of Florence Nightingale, and rejoices in the succession of inspired women who hazard health and life in their toil for humanity. It commends them to the care of Almighty God, and promises to follow their work with its prayers. It contributes to the fund now being raised the sum of £34 as a pledge of interest, admiration, and affection."

Appointments.

MISS JESSIE SOUTHWELL has been appointed matron of the Hospital for Women and Children, St. Michael's Hill, Bristol; she was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and has lately held the position of night sister at the Chelsea Hospital for Women. Miss Southwell is a Registered Nurse and a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

Miss Beatrice Jones has been selected out of a great number of applicants for the position of matron of the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, E. Miss Jones was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and has of late been assistant matron at the New Infirmary at Birmingham. Miss Jones is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a Registered Nurse.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)