

beyond measure pleased and ready to respond to the call made by a Princess who is undoubtedly the most beloved, as well as the most popular, member of the Royal Family.

These ladies arrived in Greece just in time to be of invaluable service in attending upon the Greek soldiers wounded in the first engagement of the war, which took place last Sunday. Five of the previous Nurses whom we had selected and who went out the previous week were already at work with the Crown Princess in the Hospital at Larissa amongst the sick soldiers. We believe, from information which we have received, that the advanced military hospital of the Greek Army is almost entirely nursed, by Englishwomen—a fact which will doubtless arouse considerable gratification amongst all classes in this country, and be a source of special pride to the Nursing profession.

There are two great lessons which we would venture to draw from the events which have taken place and which appear to us to be of the utmost importance to our readers. The appeal for the assistance of English Nurses is a valuable proof not only of the high state of efficiency to which the calling has attained in these islands, but also of the recognition which that fact has received in foreign countries. This condition could only have been attained by the advanced professional training which has of late years been adopted by the majority of British hospitals, and which, again, was dependent upon, and chiefly arose from, the institution of the three years' system. It is obvious now that when Nurses were only trained for one year, or even for two years, that the completeness of the education given, and of the experience gained, was necessarily less than that which three years' training has rendered possible. For ten years past, we and others have been striving, in season and out of season—in ill report more often than good—to bring about the general three years' standard; and we would therefore, with the greater pleasure, point to the practical firstfruits of the system in the improved status and greater prestige of British Nurses, as these from time to time are made manifest. We cannot but hope also that these facts will lead the few remaining hospitals in this country which still train for shorter periods, to follow the wise example of the great majority of the leading Nurse Training schools and adopt the three years' term.

The other lesson to which we referred is the proof afforded of the immense advantages of organisation—seeing that this has enabled Nurses to be chosen, equipped, and despatched to distant countries, within a few hours.

We cannot refrain from commenting in this connection upon the important services rendered to the cause of humanity in general and to her adopted country in particular, by the Crown Princess of Greece. The admirable manner in which her Royal Highness has risen to the great occasion with which she was confronted; the care and foresight with which she has made all possible provision for the sick and wounded soldiers under her husband's command, proves that she has inherited those great qualities which are so conspicuous in the character of the Empress Frederick of Germany, and which have made the Queen Empress of England universally beloved as well as universally honoured.

As soon as war seemed possible, Her Royal Highness immediately took steps, with the assistance of an organised body of women in Athens—to whom the greatest praise is due, and who once more proved the value of organisation to women as well as to men—to prepare a suitable hospital near the frontier and to provide it with all the necessary equipment. Her Royal Highness has worthily followed in the steps of her mother and her grandmother by exhibiting such keen thoughtfulness for the welfare and comfort of the people to whose reigning Family she belongs; and we venture to believe that, however this war may end, the Crown Princess of Greece will by her work of mercy and humanity, have greatly strengthened the Throne and rooted herself in the deep love and admiration of her future subjects. It is a happy omen for Greece that its destinies may hereafter be in some measure controlled by a woman who has shown herself, at a most critical moment in its history, to be possessed of such rare and great qualities, not only of heart but also of mind.

We should fail in our own loyalty, were we not to add that the unique dominion which Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales holds over the hearts of all classes in this country renders it certain that any future Nursing volunteers who might be wanted for service in Greece would be readily forthcoming, not only from their desire to carry out their humane mission wherever they may

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)