

Nursing the Wounded.

So widespread and sympathetic has been the interest evinced in the corps of volunteer nurses who left England on the 8th inst. for Greece, in the care of Mrs. Ormiston Chant, to offer their services to the Government in case of war, that news of their safety and work is eagerly awaited. We had intended this week to give many little details of their journey, but the clang and crash of war, reverberating through the world, has deadened the sounds of joy with which our brave nurses were greeted along their route to Athens. It is now ancient history that the nurses arrived in Athens on the 13th inst., were received with gracious expressions of pleasure by the Duchess of Sparta, the Crown Princess of Greece, and were accorded a magnificent ovation from the people. Of this historic journey from Brindisi to Athens we are told in a letter dated April 15th:—"It was like a royal procession; you cannot imagine it—the thousands of people in Corfu, as in Patras and Athens, bands playing 'Rule Britannia,' the military salutes, showers of flowers from windows and balconies, the cheering and the enthusiasm, with torchlight procession upon arrival at the Capital. Five of the nurses went off with the Crown Princess on the Royal yacht last night, to work under her direction at the frontier, at her own hospital at Volo, and at Larissa; she was delighted with them, and indeed they looked very happy and bonny when presented to her. We may well feel proud of them. The Crown Princess and everyone else are charmed with the uniform you designed for them. Sister Lilian Lees goes to Crete to-morrow. It was touching saying good-bye to the others last night."

From telegrams we hear of the safe arrival of Mrs. Chant and Sister Lees at Canea, and that progress into the interior of Crete will be made on horseback.

The five nurses who journeyed north, reached Volo and Larissa a few hours before the first wounded soldiers were brought into the military hospitals; and since that date, how well we can imagine the horrors which must have resulted from the bloodthirsty encounter between Greek and Turk—are not the papers full of the carnage of these poor soldiers, and of the magnificent courage and endurance of the brave men on both sides? The horror and the grief of it! and yet there is consolation in the fact that in the very forefront of the battle, within the range of shot and shell, our English nurses were quietly waiting, with every appliance to hand, ready to

take their part in the relief of the suffering endured with such heroism by the wounded and dying; and how nobly they are performing their duty there is ample evidence. England, and England's women, are honoured that this great privilege has been not only accorded to, but so instantly grasped by, its nurses.

The part played by the Crown Princess and the women of Greece is deserving of the highest honour, and whatever is the result of this disastrous war this granddaughter of our Queen has shown herself "of the quality that queens are made of." The beautiful Red Cross Hospital at Volo, organised by the Greek Ladies' Union, of which the Crown Princess is patroness, was opened by her on the 15th inst., and Mrs. P. Theodore Ralli, at the request of the Queen of Greece, has accepted the directorship. Previous to the departure of Mrs. Ralli and the doctors and nurses from Athens a solemn service was held in the presence of the Queen and the Princesses at the National Hospital, "Evangelismos," at the conclusion of which the Queen warmly embraced Mrs. Ralli, and thanked her for undertaking the task, and said how pleased she was to see that those in the highest ranks had led the example. The party started for Volo in the Queen's yacht *Sfakteria*, accompanied by Miss Palmer, Madame P. Palli, Miss Kaloprathaki, M.D., and several nurses and doctors, Greek and English.

On the opening day of the Volo Hospital the first patients were received in the persons of ten wounded insurgents sent down by train from Kalabaka. These men had been wounded in Monday's fight at Krania, and marched, or had been carried on their comrades' backs for twenty-four hours back into Greek territory.

The Greek Women's Union is a recent institution, but it already gives promise of great good in the promotion of the cause of a higher and broader education for Greek women. The Red Cross is only one branch of its manifold activity, and this hospital is equipped, supported, and worked entirely by the Union, the head of the medical department being a young Athenian lady, the first female physician in Greece. The corps of trained nurses includes ladies of some of the best Greek families, and three English ladies, who, as residents at Athens, have been admitted to membership.

The friends of the four nurses who left London for Greece on Friday last, at the request of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, will be glad to hear that they arrived safely in Athens on Tuesday evening, having

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)