

The National Greek Ambulance Fund.

THE real benevolence of the British nation is extraordinary, and may fairly be said to be unequalled by that of any other race, in any other period of history. It seems impossible to sound the depths of the generosity of our people. In this wonderful year, everyone is complaining that they have given to so many good objects that they cannot, and dare not, give another penny. A Jewish friend, who gives each year the major part of his large income to charitable objects, told us two months ago that he had already given away his whole income for this year. Yet we hear now that he has arranged for his bankers to advance him other large amounts which he has promised to yet other charities. And, in less degree, the same benevolence seems universal. The Prince of Wales' Fund has received an unknown number of thousands. The Jubilee Fund for Nurses has received £50,000, and hopes to get twice as much. The Indian Famine Fund has collected half-a-million of money in fifteen weeks. And all this is outside the thousands of separate schemes which have been started to celebrate the Record Reign in every little town and village in the United Kingdom.

It occasioned us, therefore, no surprise when our friends strongly attempted to dissuade us from making an appeal on behalf of the sick and wounded Grecian soldiers. The stream of public charity, they all said, was exhausted and dried up for this year. Yet the need seemed very great, and so we addressed a letter to our contemporaries, which many of them most courteously published, and in response we received, as we have said, another proof of the extraordinary benevolence of the people. From the highest to the lowest in the land, came not only subscriptions, but warm-hearted letters evincing the deepest interest and sympathy with the suffering and the wounded in a foreign land. Then the *Daily Chronicle*, with the generous enthusiasm characteristic of its whole career, opened a National Fund for the same purpose, and we gladly amalgamated our Fund with their organisation. In the first week, we received about £7,000, and the donors now include H.R.H. the Princess of Wales and Mr. Gladstone, while hundreds of working people have sent postal orders for one or two shillings.

Last week, it became evident that the greatest need of the moment was a better organisation of the nursing in the military

hospitals, and that it was imperative that measures should be taken immediately to this end. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, as Hon. Secretary of the National Fund, felt it was her duty to undertake this difficult task, especially as it would involve various journeys in Greece, which would be certainly difficult, and possibly dangerous. She therefore left Victoria by the Orient express, on Friday, and arrived in Athens on Tuesday evening. Just before she left, she was summoned to Marlborough House, as the Princess of Wales, with that extreme kindness of heart, which has so endeared Her Royal Highness to the whole nation, desired to express her sympathy with the sufferings of the wounded soldiers in Greece. At Victoria, many distinguished persons, and a large crowd of sympathisers, had assembled to wish Mrs. Bedford Fenwick God-speed; and a large contingent of medical students, from St. Thomas's and Guy's, made things lively by singing "Auld Lang Syne," as the train moved out of the station.

The *Daily Chronicle* National Fund have placed £1,000 at the disposal of H.R.H. the Crown Princess of Greece, in view of the great need for assistance of all kinds, beyond the supply of medical and surgical necessaries which are being sent out by the Fund.

Two medical men left London last week, as the Medical Officers of the *Daily Chronicle* National Fund for the Greek wounded: Mr. Francis Charles Abbott, M.S.Lond., F.R.C.S., Resident Assistant Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, and Mr. Moffatt, F.R.C.S.

Amongst the surgical appliances provided for the use of the medical officers in Greece is a complete set of the X ray apparatus. Dr. Barry Blacker, of St. Thomas's Hospital, who has selected the apparatus says:—

"It would be hard to estimate the saving of pain to the sufferers, and of time to the medical officers in the diagnosis of injured bones and location of bullets or foreign bodies, which this new and rapid method of examination will render possible."

We are sure that the apparatus will be welcomed by patients, doctors, and nurses alike. The tedious process of probing for bullets is painful in the extreme, to endure, to inflict, and to watch, and this latest discovery of modern science should be invaluable in the hospitals during the war.

The safe arrival of the seven nurses who left London for Athens last week was announced by telegram on Monday.

The *Daily Mail's* correspondent at Volo says:—

"Of the English Red Cross nurses only three now

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