

patient, and grateful; and, indeed, there is a strong strain of poetry, romance, and innate refinement in this interesting nation. What denizen of Whitechapel, or even more aristocratic Westminster, would, before leaving the hospital, shyly ask the Sister to write down her name "so that he might always remember it in his prayers!"; or say of the surgeons "he is a magician; he has saved my leg; he has healed my wounds; he gives bread to my little ones. When I go to my home I will say he was a very very little man, but he was Great!"

From the Red Cross Hospital, Kravassara, Sister Carter writes: "The work here has been very heavy, especially since the last battle, but we are all very well, though certainly it is a very rough life. The doctors here are good, and are delighted with our work, and indeed we have been able to improve things greatly, though of course the hospital is far from being perfect. On Sunday I heard there were hundreds of wounded at Arta, needing help, so I went there alone with Madame Soutzo (Madame Baltazzi's sister), and found things in a terrible state in all the hospitals there. I took the night duty in the Military Hospital with 129 patients, and worked very hard, as I tried to get dressings and instruments into some sort of cleanliness and order. . . . There was a frightful panic in the town, and we could see the Turks just across the river. The Greek cannons were firing all day and did a lot of damage. It was a curious sound to hear the balls whistling far above one's head. Of course, it was not safe to keep the patients in Arta, so Madame Soutzo worked very hard to get them transported. She was compelled to leave Arta, as it was thought the town would be bombarded, but after a long discussion with the authorities, I was allowed to stay till all the wounded were taken away, which was accomplished next day. Meanwhile the Turks came down with the white flag, and peace was decided on. . . . Here we have operations nearly all day long, and so far have had five deaths. Some men were terribly wounded in the head, but are doing splendidly. All our cases are very serious ones, as the slightly wounded go to the Military Hospital here."

Sisters Tillott and Davies are still at Kravassara. Sisters Moody and Waller return from there to-day on board the *Epirus*, conveying the wounded to Athens, and leave with me this evening for Chalcis to join Sisters Nesbit, Fawkes, Warriner, Lees, Whiteford and Winder, who have all been busy helping to arrange the Hospital in time to receive the wounded from the battle-field of Gribovo.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

An Interview with Mrs. Ormiston Chant

IN an interview with Mrs. Chant, I have had the pleasure of hearing from her own lips the story of her visit to Crete, and am now able to give to the readers of the *NURSING RECORD* the account for which they have eagerly waited.

Mrs. Chant has returned home fully satisfied with the result of her "Mission of Mercy," and well she may be, for the ball which she set rolling has developed, until the original modest scheme has become almost obscured. The *Daily Chronicle*, perceiving the value of trained nursing and medical help to the Greek nation at the present crisis, organised the now historic National Fund which has rendered such splendid assistance, and has at present a staff in Greece of twenty-nine nurses, working under the superintendence of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, two hospitals fully equipped, and a medical staff of four English surgeons. Those, however, who care to give "honour to those to whom honour is due," will always remember that the credit of taking the initiative in this movement belongs to Mrs. Chant; that in the *NURSING RECORD* of March 27th it was announced that the Editor "had been approached during the past week by a lady concerning the organisation of a corps of volunteer nurses for service in Crete and elsewhere, should war break out between Greece and Turkey," and that on April 8th Mrs. Chant, with six nurses, left Charing Cross for Athens, the result of her brave venture being that when war was declared English nurses were on the spot, and after the first battle took place, the wounded were cared for by the skilled nurses, whose presence at the front was a proof of what can be accomplished by a woman with a purpose.

Mrs. Chant's original idea, however, was to render aid to the Cretan wounded, and she accordingly made arrangements to visit Crete in order to satisfy herself whether or no such aid was needed. Leaving four nurses in Greece, therefore, she set off accompanied by Sister Lillian Lees, and taking with her medical stores, and letters for the officers of Colonel Vassos' camp from their friends in Athens.

Mrs. Chant arrived at Canea early on the morning of Easter Day, and found the town ruined and deserted, and there was no sign of any place where it was possible to put up. After a drive of three miles, however, the little party was, with the ready hospitality for which the officers of the British Navy are noted, invited on board the *Revenge* by Admiral Harris, and hospitably entertained. Eventually Mrs. Chant and her companion found rooms in a

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)