

The National Greek Ambulance Fund.

NURSING THE WOUNDED.

THE work of those Sisters, who soon after the declaration of war between Turkey and Greece were sent to Epirus, has been less before the world than that of their colleagues who were on duty near the main body of the army at Volo, Styliada, and Chalcis, and of those who were deputed to care for the wounded at the base in Athens, and yet report speaks most highly of the services rendered by these ladies at the Red Cross Hospital at Karavassara.

To the Princess Zoutzo the Greek nation owes a deep debt of gratitude, as it was upon her initiative, and owing to her personal organisation and care, that skilled nursing was made possible at Karavassara. This lady went herself to the seat of war, taking with her three English Sisters, and an English lady, Miss Bull, who spoke Greek, and she remained to take part in the work, at immense personal discomfort and inconvenience, through the whole campaign, and helped with the removal of the wounded from Karavassara to Patras, where a hospital had been prepared for their reception. On our homeward journey, we therefore had the pleasure of paying a visit to the Patras Hospital, which has been arranged in the fine National School buildings, in several of the lofty and spacious rooms of which, ten beds were comfortably arranged, and the wards furnished with every comfort for the sick. One ward contained the officers, but no difference was made as to the nursing arrangements, every little detail, down to the posy on each locker, being provided for officers and men alike.

We found the wounded had borne their long journey from Karavassara remarkably well, the worst cases having come all the way by boat and carriage on stretchers. Dr. Zaimi and his charming wife, and Sisters Carter, Tillott, and Waller, were all wonderfully bright and well, considering their arduous work.

In one ward, we were deeply interested to find the brave Katerina Aoriniti, who was for three hours under fire in the front ranks of the battle of Gribovo, supplying the soldiers with milk and water at her own expense. A sad fate decreed that just as she had emptied her cans and turned to leave the field, a ball passed through her right elbow and grazed her side. This gentle "Gungidin" was removed to the nearest ambulance hospital, and we found, to add to her misfortune, that her little child had been lost, her husband not having dared to

return home after the battle to fetch it! During the past week, upwards of 100 patients have been discharged from the various hospitals nursed by English Sisters, and the Athenian Committee of the *Daily Chronicle* National Fund are making arrangements for the return of those Sisters who can now be spared, and we hope to welcome some of them home in a few days.

The following extracts from a letter to the *Morning Post* from Mr. Hamilton Gatliff, headed "Red Cross v. White Crescent," are unbiassed evidence of the success of the work of the Crown Princess of Greece, aided by our English nurses. In writing of his inspection of the hospitals for the wounded, he says:—

"Precedence must certainly be given to the Military hospital instituted in the beautiful Military School on the Patisia Road under the superintendence of Captain Cambourglos, who personally conducted us through each ward of the enormous building. It was barely 9 a.m. when Mr. G. Soutzo, the First Secretary at the Foreign Office, and myself arrived, and found everything in full swing. The splendid central hall, 150 ft. high, adorned with frescoes and containing about 160 occupants in single line of beds on either side of the walls, was as busy as a bee-hive. One patient was having his wound dressed—a ghastly rent made by a shrapnel shell—while the doctor and nurse stood by watching. Everything went like clockwork, and punctuality seemed to be the order of the day. One of the Sisters, seeing a compatriot, was kind enough to spare me a couple of minutes' chat. She was enthusiastic in her praises of the patience and fortitude of the sufferers, though she laughingly remarked: 'But, as for rules, why there would be a revolution were we even to attempt to give them.' Mr. Herbert, one of the English volunteers enrolled in the Foreign Legion, could not say enough for the kindness and attention of the orderlies. Mr. Herbert was wounded in the leg, but was then progressing favourably. I noticed by his bedside a pile of Tauchnitz novels, flowers, and cigarettes. Indeed, it would have been difficult to suggest any additional comfort. Upstairs, we saw the pathologic section, with but few cases, and then visited the Turkish wounded, who were equally admirably cared for, and anything to make them feel more at home, any little out of the way luxury, was accorded them. Probably these poor men had never been so happy in their lives before, and the visit of some weeks to a clean and well kept house, with as much food as they might want, must fully have compensated them for their bruises. These Turkish soldiers during their detention receive, I was told, from the Greek Government twice the pay of a Greek soldier,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)