

further heavy expense to the Union, for (as has already been said) all the household effects had been lost at Volo. Thanks, however, to the munificent gifts which have been received from all parts of the world, especially from the United States of America, the Union has been enabled to carry it on, with sufficient means for all requirements.

The house is small, and at the beginning it was somewhat over-full, 65 patients having been admitted; but owing to the healthy constitutions of the Greek soldiers, many patients were soon sufficiently recovered to be dismissed, and the numbers fell to 47.

There have been several severe cases, but so far only two have proved fatal.

The nurses are Greek, with two exceptions, *i.e.*, Miss Dunbar, certificated by the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and Miss Schmidt, a Swedish lady doctor. The surgeons are Drs. Balano and Nouli, with their assistants, and Dr. François le Major, a Hungarian doctor of some repute, who has kindly offered his services.

There are two wards set apart for Greek officers, and one for the Foreign Legion, most of whom are Italians. The remaining five wards are given up to non-commissioned officers, most of them Greeks, from all parts of the Balkan States, Asia Minor, and Russia, many of them volunteers fighting for their "*patrida*" (fatherland).

On each floor the wards are supervised by two ladies, who have been trained as nurses.

The linen department is undertaken by three ladies, who give out the daily stores and keep the linen in order.

There are several interesting cases. One poor orphan girl of nineteen accompanied her brother to the war, and joined the Evzone's Regiment with him; she is badly wounded in the back, but glories in the fact of having killed at least ten Turks!

There are two other women patients. One is a poor peasant girl whose home is in a little village close to Volo. She is one of a family of seven, and when the Turks entered the little town they set fire to her home and she and her mother were the only ones who managed to escape; the six other children perished in the flames. The poor girl received such a shock that her nerves have given way; she needs great care and attention.

The remaining woman is a poor Cretan who is in a fearful condition owing to the brutality of the Turks.

After the war is over the Union hopes to found an accident hospital, but the misery in Athens is very great and, as has already been said, the Union is doing a very great deal to relieve this distress, consequently its expenses have been very great, and the funds are very low.

The generosity of the poorer classes towards their compatriots in distress is very touching, almost every poor house has taken in at least one refugee. It is earnestly to be hoped that it will not be thought that, with the end of the war, all need of pecuniary assistance has ceased, for these poor Thessalian and Epirote refugees dare not return to their homes, as some of their fellow-countrymen have done, only bitterly to rue having trusted the Turks. These facts have not yet been made known in the foreign papers.

Nursing in the Smaller Hospitals and in those devoted to the care of Special Forms of Disease.*

If I have to begin with an apology, and ask you not to criticise too sharply the crudeness of the paper which I shall present to you to-day, I cannot nevertheless accept the entire responsibility, for I feel that the fault lies also partly with circumstances, and partly with our esteemed Chairman. The subject was first assigned to Miss Palmer, but she found her time so occupied, on assuming the duties of Superintendent of the Rochester City Hospital, that she wrote that it was impossible for her to prepare the paper. Our chairman in casting about for a substitute, and knowing my good nature of old, has taken an unfair advantage of that knowledge. While I feel that she has conferred an honour by putting this task upon me, I am convinced that I have assumed a burden which is too heavy for me. The subject is one upon which I would speak gladly, only after months of careful study. But it is too important and far-reaching to be touched upon lightly, and in the short time at my disposal I have not been able to grapple with it with any great satisfaction to myself.

The question of providing nursing in the smaller hospitals, and in those devoted to the care of special forms of disease is not a new one. I am sure that many of us in days gone by, as well as at the present time, have turned and are still turning the problem over and over in our minds. We have pondered it in the night season, and have had it with us, as a continuous underlying current of thought, through our busy working hours. For there is no doubt that this class of nursing goes far towards the making or undoing of our present system of caring for the sick both inside and outside of hospitals; its influence is far-reaching, and largely by the results obtained in these institutions will the profession of nursing rise or fall. It is, therefore, a problem that demands our most careful consideration and deliberation; it is not to be taken up lightly or passed over hastily, but discussed carefully and kept before us until, as a convention, we are satisfied that the system of nursing in other than our large general hospitals has been made as perfect as possible.

We will first take a brief survey of this class of institutions, and then consider their work and influence upon the nursing profession, and their relation to the large hospitals.

* Being a paper read at the Superintendents' Conference, Baltimore, by Mrs. Hampton Robb.

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