

only convalescent home in Ireland for infectious cases, and we hope, therefore, it will receive the liberal support of the public.

The preparations for the building of the new Victoria Hospital at Belfast have been advanced, the Governors of the Belfast Asylum having granted a most suitable site upon which to erect it. Belfast is to be congratulated upon the generous manner in which its citizens have subscribed to its Jubilee Memorial.

A further remittance of £250 was sent on Saturday by the Duke of Westminster from the Greek Refugees' Fund to Sir Edwin Egerton, Her Majesty's Minister at Athens, for the purchase of bread for the Thessalian refugees in Eubœa.

The International Red Cross Conference was opened at Vienna on Saturday, most of the European States and Japan being represented.

It is reported that plague has broken out in the Northern Caucasus, and several deaths are reported. The authorities are taking stringent measures to prevent it spreading.

Great distress prevails at Poona. Many persons are flocking in from the plague-stricken districts.

A direct report from Dawson City announces that many cases of typhoid fever are occurring in the district. The town is horribly dirty, and the stench and filth are fearful. The doctors are kept constantly busy, and are being paid £40 a visit.

The *Daily Mail* says:—

"Troops have been called out in the State of Mississippi to protect the railroad tracks from a panic-stricken mob, who have already torn up a portion of the line to prevent the spread of yellow fever.

"At Jackson City a railway company was ordered to rush the trains through at a rate of twenty-five miles an hour, but refused to obey, and the mob, crazed with fear, burned the sleepers and pulled up the lines, thus stopping traffic altogether.

"Throughout the city religious services have been suspended and social visits prohibited an account of the alarming increase of the epidemic."

The special correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* in Cuba writes on September 2nd:—"Nearly a thousand sick and wounded soldiers were shipped to Spain by the Red Cross Society yesterday, on two Spanish mail steamers. Large subscriptions from England recently re-started the society, which was languishing for lack of funds. In America, it is not popular, as the authorities allow no succour to wounded and sick in the field, and many regular subscribers ceased their subscription, saying the Government were utilizing private charity to transport their troops home again. This is the only outlet for the funds, however, as General Weyler strenuously opposes all applications for permission to run field hospitals, even near Havana. The attacks on the Spanish medical staff made by the Japanese Dr. Mouraton in the London Medical Press, after he left Cuba, are bitterly resented here."

## Our Foreign Letter.

IN AN ITALIAN HOSPITAL.

Pages from an Englishwoman's Diary.

(Continued from page 196.)

December 17th.

THE new young woman came to see me after lunch. Antonietta Poma is thirty-three, a quiet, pleasant-mannered person. Again, I hope! She is to come



to the Hospital to-morrow to see the chief, and if he approves, can begin work the day after. She is alone in Rome, living with a friend; this shows a certain independence, and justifies the attribute of "seriousness" given her by Signora P—. A young woman who has had the courage to leave her family (somewhere in the provinces), and to come to Rome to earn her living, is the sort of person who would be likely to venture on a new career.

December 18th.

Antonietta came, and the Professor said a few kind words. She gives the impression of possessing plenty of common sense, and has not mentioned the word "courage" or "sensitiveness" yet. We arranged for her to come on duty to-morrow.

The patients are most interesting just now. Grazia always make me think of "Marie de Guersaint"; and her case is still "obscure." She is very devout, and cried for two days on first coming for grief at leaving a certain Suor. Maria Flaira in the Hospital from which she had come—whilst her first question was whether we had mass every morning in our ward. I keep wondering if the girl has faith enough to be cured by prayer (granting the malady is hysteria). One of the house physicians means to try hypnotism, I believe. He is convinced there is no lesion or inflammation, and she might be cured by "suggestion."

December 19th.

Antonietta came punctually, and helped me with the toilettes; she has a good manner with the patients—no fear of them—and is generally very self-possessed. I fear she is not very strong though; her pulse was irregular, and she owned to having had rheumatism. However, she declared she was perfectly well now. Later on I will get her examined.

December 21st.

I had a serious talk with Antonietta this morning. I found that she was getting into a habit of calling the *infermiere* for what Signora P— termed "bassi servizi," and on my refusing to allow this, she frankly expressed her objection to doing such offices. I told her the nurse's code was to do everything in connection with the patient herself, and nothing was "low" if looked at from our standpoint, as the simplest things often ministered most to his comfort.

Her answer was that the educated nurse should *sorvegliare* (supervise), but that servants should do the rough and unpleasant work! As this was exactly what has been taught the "Signorina" at Prof. D—'s

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)