On the following Thursday the evacuation of Larissa took place, and hearing how very inefficient the field ambulances on the frontier had been before the retreat took place, Madame Palli at once set to work to organise one with the small means at her command.

This field ambulance was carried out by Mrs.

Cassavetti, aided by two or three doctors, Miss Schmidt (a Swedishlady doctor), three nurses, and several Red Cross men, who were employed in carrying the wounded off the field of battle in litters, thus saving many lives at the Battle of Velestino.

A few days later, Volo was evacuated; but as there were many wounded in the wards of the hospital, work was carried on there as long as possible under the American and French flags, as the British Consul refused to place it under his protection.

On Tues-

day, May

15th, however, it was found that it was no longer possible to continue the work there, and Mrs. Ralli (accompanied by the whole staff and taking all the wounded with her) left for Athens on board the Albania, provided by the Daily Chronicle National Fund. Unfortunately, only the surgical instruments and antiseptic appliances were saved; the rest had to be left to

the tender mercies of the Turks, as the panicstricken inhabitants could not be persuaded to carry anything on board.

Immediately on the arrival of this party in Athens, Madame Palli organised two separate expeditions—one an ambulance to Stelitha and Domokos, for the Thessalian Army, under Mrs.

Cassavetti;



and the other (at the request of the Prime Minister, M. Ralli) t o Vónetza, in Epirus, as being the nearest available point to which the wounded could be brought. This latter expedition was headed Dr. bу Manghina, the celebrated Athenian surgeon, and Dr. Mary Kalapothaky, aided by younger surgeons, amongst others Dr. Kanda, who has shown great enthusiasm and devotion all through the work. The organisation of these two expeditions delayed the opening of

the hospital in Athens, which Madame Palli was busily preparing; but by the time the first boat-load of wounded arrived from Domokos, a bright little hospital was ready for them in a house in the Rue de Patissia, which belonged formerly to the ex-Minister of the Interior, M. Mavromichali.

The equipment of this hospital caused a

previous page next page