

between the United States and Spain. The organization of American nursing is so excellent that we are of opinion that as many graduate nurses, of suitable character, as might be required, could be selected, and sent to the front at a few days' notice. The American Red Cross Society, unlike our own, is a vigorous and energetic branch of the International Organization, and the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, has, perhaps, unique qualifications for selecting suitable candidates. In this respect American organization has advanced beyond our own, and the advantage of this organization is apparent at the present crisis. Therefore, though we are sure our American colleagues will appreciate the desire of British nurses to come to their aid at the present time, we are convinced that the supply of fully-qualified American nurses will be ample to meet the need of their wounded. With Spain it is otherwise. Politically, all our sympathies are with America, but, as a nurse, our sympathies are with sickness and suffering, wherever it exists, and the nationality and the politics of a wounded man are nothing to us. The question, therefore, is simply one of funds. If these are forthcoming, to equip an expedition, British nurses, we do not doubt, will be ready to do as good work for America or Spain as they did in the Greco-Turkish War. Nursing in Spain is principally performed by religious sisterhoods, and male orderlies, and the trained nurse, as we understand her, hardly exists in that country. There would, therefore, be ample scope for the work of a band of British nurses.

AN OFFER OF SERVICE.

WE have during the past week communicated with the American and Spanish Ambassadors with the view of ascertaining whether the services of a corps of British nurses would be acceptable to their respective Governments at the seat of war in the event of the proclamation of hostilities. We have received the following courteous reply from the Hon. John Hay, the American Ambassador:—"I have received your letter of yesterday. I have no information of the intentions of the American Government in regard to the arrangement for nursing the wounded in the event of hostilities with any foreign power. I will transmit your letter to Washington, where I am sure it will receive the most respectful consideration."

REFORMERS.

THE want of moral courage on the part of many nurses is an evil which requires recognition and reform. It is notorious that when they have grounds of legitimate complaint, as well as when they become acquainted with abuses which require reform, nurses discuss these amongst themselves with the greatest freedom; but it is exceedingly rare for them to bring these matters before responsible authorities. There are various reasons for this. In the first place many probationers, and these perhaps of the best, enter upon their hospital career having implicit faith in those about them. These are inclined to think that if to their inexperience a thing appears wrong, there must be some mistake in their point of view. Others, again, think that it is not their place to speak during their period of probation. When they are certificated they will be in a different position. Yet others, without doubt, keep silence for the reason mentioned by a correspondent to a Birmingham contemporary. "The nursing world is very small, and the name of any 'reformer' is soon known by all the matrons. Hence, naturally, nurses suffer in silence rather than blast their future careers." This is, without doubt, frequently the reason why nurses who are cognizant of wrong-doing keep silence, and consequently condone it, rather than take their courage in their hands and expose it. Those who pursue this course pay, we think, too heavy a price for their subsequent success in life, if it is built up upon such a foundation. To such as are placed in a difficult position we would say, "Be strong;" in considering your line of action look at the question from the point of view of duty, and do not take possible consequences to yourself into consideration. These are very often over-estimated, but in any case if so-called success is to be obtained only at the price of honour let it be reserved for those who are willing to pay that price. Such success is a spurious article at the best, and even when attained, the flavour of the fruit bought at the sacrifice of principle is apt to be, in the mouth, that of honey, but at a later stage exceedingly bitter. What is needed for the salvation of the nursing profession is to have within its ranks women who possess the courage of their own convictions, not invertebrate beings, swayed by the strongest influence of any passing moment.

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