

from the mother country to our Indian Empire that those responsible for its government were not unmindful of their obligations to British subjects in the far East. Since then the number of the nurses has been very largely augmented, and although still the supply falls probably far short of the need, yet it is a generous one, and the fact that English women have been found willing to risk their lives in the service of the natives of India in their extremity; must, we think, help considerably to bring about the mutual understanding and good feelings so important, but so difficult of attainment, between black and white.

THE GRÆCO-TURKISH WAR.

Scarcely had the needs of India been to some extent met, when the probable outbreak of hostilities in Crete, and the consequent need of the services of trained nurses became apparent, and on April 8th Mrs. Ormiston Chant, to whom belongs the credit of the initiative in this matter, left for Athens with six nurses selected by us for service in Crete or Greece, as occasion might require, and almost immediately after these nurses had left England we were honoured by a request from the Crown Princess of Greece, through the Princess of Wales, to select, and despatch four nurses to Her Royal Highness at Athens. The manner in which the Editor of the *Daily Chronicle* recognized and espoused the needs of the wounded Greeks, and the splendid response elicited from the nation by an appeal in that organ, is now a matter of history. We are glad to recall the fact that the work being accomplished, the nurses returned to England, having won the respect and regard of all the medical men and lay committees with whom they worked, as well as the gratitude of their patients, for the manner in which they performed their duties. One of their number, moreover, was able after the war was over to render a service of national importance to her fellow countrymen by nursing the sailors from the British men-of-war, "Rodney" and "Forte," during an epidemic of enteric fever.

EPIDEMICS.

In England, epidemics of enteric fever have also unhappily occurred, and at Maidstone, Lynn, and Clifton, the services of trained nurses have been requisitioned, and have been of the utmost value. Had the cholera roll of

the Royal British Nurses' Association been in existence, services of national value might have been performed by the Association in this connection, but, unhappily, this scheme, like many others, has, we understand, fallen through.

THE ASYLUM WORKERS.

In the Asylum world there has been considerable activity during the past year. The Asylum workers have now a flourishing Association of their own, as well as a monthly paper conducted on most useful and wise lines. The suggestion that Asylum workers should be registered by the Royal British Nurses' Association as trained nurses has not, we are glad to observe, met with a cordial response from the Asylum workers themselves. Nothing could be more disastrous to the best interests of this excellent body of workers than to afford them facilities of registration without education, as the need for improving their education would at once be done away. This fact is, we believe, recognized by both influential medical men and matrons connected with Asylums, and we hope that the need for registration of Asylum workers, as such, and the futility of registering them as trained nurses, which they, or most of them, are not, will be brought into prominence during the present year.

MASSEUSES.

Much is being done to facilitate the teaching of massage, and we would merely point out that this difficult accomplishment cannot be acquired in a few lessons, and that those who desire to learn their work thoroughly will do well to join some recognized school of massage.

A GENERAL SURVEY.

As all our readers are aware, the present year opened with a campaign against trained nurses, by Lady Priestley, followed by Mr. Hall Caine. Underlying the description of nurses, by both of these writers, was the great fundamental accusation of lack of principle in nurses as a class.

We did something at the time to disabuse the public of what in the main we consider an unjust view of trained nurses, but taking into consideration the conduct during the past year of the nurses in their own professional Association, in which, for self-interest, they have shown themselves capable of a deplorable lack

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)