

Professional Review.

SURGERY IN THE GRÆCO-TURKISH WAR.

WE have received from Dr. Francis C. Abbott, B.Sc., M.S.London, F.R.C.S.Eng., Surgeon to out-patients to the Evelina Hospital, and late Chief Surgeon to the *Daily Chronicle* National Fund for the Greek wounded, an interesting reprint from the *Lancet* of a paper on the subject of the surgery in the Græco-Turkish War. Dr. Abbott's report is especially valuable, because in this war, by the liberality of the *Daily Chronicle* and its supporters, a new weapon for the detection of hidden bullets was put into the hands of military surgeons, namely the Roentgen rays. In Dr. Abbott's opinion, practical difficulties connected with the working of the apparatus, make its use, at the front an impossibility, but this, he thinks, is not really necessary, and might possibly do harm, by stimulating a young surgeon to premature operations in bad surroundings. It is only in a small minority of cases that the bullet remains hidden, and "these are just the cases which can wait, and are at first merely dressed, or which (as in lung cases) only develop serious signs later, and are the ones which in a week or two will be arriving at the base. Besides these, there are those cases in which no bullet is thought to be present, but which do not go on well. These also can be skiagraphed as they arrive at the base and the source of irritation, be it bullet or sequestrum, often discovered." Domoko was fought on May 17th, but the X-ray apparatus was not fixed until June, and the want of it was not felt until then.

Dr. Abbott arrives at the following conclusions: The Roentgen rays should always, if possible, be available at that hospital nearest the front in which the wounds can be first properly examined and dealt with.

"The less wounds are tampered with before satisfactory surroundings are reached, the better. All difficult bullets should be removed by a fresh incision and the track ignored.

"The modern bullet, from its greater penetrating power, will be much less frequently found in the body than its predecessors. It is practically aseptic, and there is no urgency for removal

"The hole of entrance is extremely small. Suppuration is generally due to pieces of clothes carried into the tissues. Superficial septic sinuses should be excised. Wounds of lung by modern bullets run a comparatively favourable course.

"Small-bore bullets may bore through a bone without causing any line of fracture whatever, and every degree of injury from this up to the most extensive comminution may be met with.

"Passive movements, and massage when possible, should be begun early in bullet wound fractures."

The water used in the *Chronicle* Hospitals in this campaign, both for surgical and drinking purposes, was filtered through Berkefeld filters, and in no case in these hospitals was the fearfully prevalent typhoid contracted. It was used as sterile in surgery, because from the smallness of the open charcoal stoves, it was impossible to obtain sufficient boiled water, and the water, so filtered, proved very satisfactory.

Dr Abbott advises that in subsequent wars such nursing adjuncts as bedpans, porringers, etc., should always be taken. In this war, they were sent round by sea to avoid the cost of carriage overland.

Our Foreign Letter.

WHERE THE DISTRICT NURSE IS UNKNOWN.

(A holiday letter from the shores of the South Pacific.)

BY LINA MOLLETT.

(Continued from page 220.)



It was the baby who gave a welcome opportunity for the helping instincts that were fermenting here.

He had been sleeping during his father's

recital, and now awoke most opportunely with a lusty howl, to summon his attendants.

For all were his attendants there.

Never was baby more petted and comforted than that small stranger in his quaint and manly manteau.

"Povericito lindo!" was on everybody's tongue. Not one of the ladies thought of mentioning adoption; it seemed so natural under the circumstances. The sole drawback was that the baby would have too many mothers.

Only the practical master of the house seemed to think a remark on the subject necessary.

He had been watching the baby and watching the stranger silently. Now he spoke.

"You see your baby will be well cared for."

"It is that I came to ask you about. I knew you were kind. Will you keep the child for me while I go up to Santiago and try to arrange for the sale of my estate. For never, I feel, can I bear to live there again."

"And then?"

"Ah then! Quien sabe! (Who knows!)"

"Don't hurry away, and come back, and be our guest till you feel settled. There is always work here. The estate is large. You can help superintend, or just wait if you like, and be near the child."

"Yes," chimed in the lady of the house, "and the child shall be well cared for, and Heaven will comfort you in time."

And so these good and simple-minded people did the best they could for the afflicted, and brought a shade of relief into the father's weary face, and the most entire selfish baby-complacency into the son's.

It struck me once that they had the confidence of people who were above suspicion, and had seldom been deceived, and thought how well that spoke for those they had lived amongst and I just wondered for a moment whether in an English country house, a dusty and unknown traveller, unfolding a strange and tragic tale, would have found friends quite so readily, or whether, perhaps, these Chilians were unconsciously teaching me a lesson.

(Events showed their confidence was well placed.)

And next day!—Was it chance? Was it fate? Was it Providence?—a more cheerful rider brought the European mail, with a pile of welcome letters and papers, among the last my old friend the *NURSING RECORD*, for many years a bond between myself and English friends I love and honour; a record, too, of a

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