

Military Nursing in Greece.

As Convener of the Professional Section, we had the honour to convey to the Crown Princess of Greece the information that the subject of Military Nursing would be discussed at the International Congress of Women, knowing how deeply interested she is in organising an efficient nursing system for the Greek army, with the hope that the result of her labours for the welfare of the Greek soldiers might be presented to the Congress. In answer to our request, Her Royal Highness has most graciously forwarded the opinion of Dr. Kambanis, the eminent surgeon who acted as chief medical officer at the Ecole Militaire at Athens, used as a Hospital during the War—too late by a few days to be read at the Nursing Section, but still eminently valuable as the expression of opinion of an expert on the question.

We print in full Dr. Kambanis' letter to the Crown Princess of Greece, on the point of the value of skilled nursing by women in military hospitals, knowing that it will be of extreme value to many of our readers on both sides of the Atlantic, as it is the result of practical experience. We rejoice at the same time at the warm expression of approval by Dr. Kambanis of the work of our English Sisters in Greece:—

"To Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Greece.

"MADAM,—In compliance with your Highness' request I have the honour to submit, in a few words, the result of my personal experiences of the services rendered by the English Sisters in nursing the wounded during the recent Graeco-Turkish War. I confine my observations to my own surgical department in the temporary military hospital of the Evelpos School, which was established under the auspices of your Highness.

"The Sisters, during the whole of the time of their service, displayed consummate skill and ability in the performance of their duties. According to my observation, their knowledge of the antiseptic treatment was most accurate, and they applied it both with discrimination and skill. Their knowledge, too, of dressings and bandaging, was excellent. Their assistance to us in operating left nothing to be desired whether in the preparation of our instruments or during the operations themselves, and on all occasions when they were assisting me professionally, I was struck with the ability, devotion and exceptional cleanliness that characterised the help they rendered.

"None the less remarkable was their kindness, gentleness, and forbearance in tending their patients. They were punctual in administering medicines, exact in the superintendence of the

cleanness of the hospital, and were ever insistent in their attention to the severely wounded, both as regards their bodily needs and in giving them their food. In spite of the difficulties of making themselves understood, they knew how to exact obedience in the wards, and quickly gained for themselves by their ever-ready help the confidence and sincere affection of their patients.

"Their example exercised a general influence over the subordinate staff which, otherwise, owing to the short duration of their service and experience, would have encountered difficulties in grasping their duties. This fact was especially prominent in their exaction of general cleanliness and punctuality. Their influence for good, as I can vouch by experience, made itself felt also in the remaining hospitals, that is to say, in the Saviour Hospital, which was under the auspices of H.R.H. the Princess Maria, where the nurses were Danish, in the "Daily Chronicle" Hospital, and in the Russian and German Hospitals where the nurses belonged to those nationalities.

"I am confirmed in my observations by all those medical colleagues of mine who were as fortunate as myself in obtaining their services. In a word, I have no hesitation in stating that the satisfactory results of our efforts was due, in a large measure, to the ability displayed by these nurses.

"I take this opportunity of submitting to your Highness a short table of statistics showing the mortality amongst the wounded and the number of amputations performed. Your Highness will have satisfaction in observing how far the proportion of deaths and amputations fell short of all previous experience, and this in spite of the unfavourable circumstances under which our forces so constantly suffered.

"I must not, however, be taken to refer these favourable results to the assistance of the Sisters alone. Account must also be taken in great part of the following circumstances:—

"1. The excellent health of the Greek troops, due to their exceptional continence and to their freedom from hereditary disease.

"2. The prompt application of the antiseptic method.

"3. The treatment of the wounded in central hospitals to which they were immediately transferred.

"4. The carriage of the wounded by means of the hospital ship organised by ladies with the medical attendance on board.

"In conclusion, however, and as regards my special department, I cannot disguise the pleasure it gives me to express to the Sisters my recognition of the measure in which their training and skill contributed to these happy results, nor can I realise too clearly how happy and beneficent

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