

Training the Turk to Nurse the Turk.

Mrs. Candace Wheeler, who will be held in kindest remembrance by those who visited the great Exhibition in Chicago in 1893, has a most interesting paper on the coming trained nurse in Turkey in the *American Outlook*, from which we quote the greater part of her article:—

The American or English traveller who is a temporary dweller in beautiful Constantinople is harrowed by the constant spectacle of physical suffering which in other countries is shielded by hospital seclusion and mitigated by medical and surgical science. In the face of such conditions it seems a question whether it is worth while for people to continue to exist who willingly endure such misery.

The superb fighting activities of the Turks, as the world knows them, are devoted to the extermination of visible foes, whether of their own or alien races, while they are perfectly unconscious of those fatal enemies which attack their families, and are in fact nurtured in their most intimate surroundings. Such enemies, deadly as they are, are peacefully met, sheltered under the wide mantle of fate, and borne stoically and uncomplainingly, as part of life. That there can be any other than destructive warfare is practically an unknown thought in the race-mind; much less that the most universal and pervading warfare of the world to-day is with unseen foes and against influences which are far the most destructive enemies of man.

In Turkey, as every tourist knows, these malignant influences are so potent as almost to materialise themselves. One seems to see blindness in actual form doing its destructive work upon babies lying untended in the sun, the delicate little eye-sockets solidly black with flies which the baby hands cannot drive from their lodgment. The last previous resting-place of these pests was perhaps upon some reeking carrion, and the poison of it is inoculated by thousands of minute insect lances into the living eyes of babies.

No political power can be brought to bear upon such enemies as are harboured by ignorance, superstition, and blind waiting for the final stroke of fate; but something above all political and material force—the drift of scientific knowledge and human beneficence—has been turned in this direction, and is materialising into a hospital and training school in that great and enticing city which is the very stronghold of domestic ignorance.

Native missionaries, in the cap and apron which constitute the special uniform of the trained nurse—Turkish, Greek and Armenian girls, armed with certificates of graduation from the Constantinople School for Trained Nurses—will take up this new form of missionary labour.

There are hundreds of these girls—many of them educated in the schools maintained by American missions—who are anxiously waiting to enter the field. Mentally and physically they compare wonderfully well with American and English women who choose the same vocation. Some of them, indeed, show traits of character which would be remarkable

anywhere. A few years in the mission school, and daily contact during those years with habits of orderly and hygienic life, have brought many of them to long for the training which will enable them to help their own people. They can go alike into hovel and harem carrying with them the decrees of science and the laws of health. They can teach the indolent mother of street babies the rewards of decent cleanliness and the penalties of flies and dirt, by object-lessons which appeal to the natural love of the natural mothers.

We must remember that such nurses, coming from the same sort of homes to which they are sent for ministry, understanding all the circumstances of life in them and undismayed by their vileness, looking at them in fact as natural conditions, will be in turn understood by the people to whom they minister. They bring lotions and bandages with kindred hands, and their new ways and thoughts and teachings are imbibed by these neglected babes of the human race as naturally as mother's milk. The trained native nurse introduces not only ideas of cleanliness and decency, but of natural justice and fairness in the relation of women to men, of mutual happiness and mutual service in family life, and in the end these are worth more to her patients, than even amelioration of physical suffering. That native nurses will be effective missionaries for this cause there can be small doubt. They are themselves so joyful over their own opportunities and the changed circumstances of their lives that they accept with enthusiasm the chance of helping their country women. Up to this time there has been but one Training School for Nurses in Turkey—that established by Dr. Carrington at Marsovan in 1900, in connection with the Anatolia College Hospital. Two classes have graduated from this school, and these, with the foreign nurses attached to the few foreign hospitals established by the American Board of Foreign Missions and by independent or individual effort, are lost to sight in a population of over twenty millions.

The going out of one's own house or family to care for others is a new thought in the Oriental mind, but the daughters of small traders, merchants, agriculturists, and followers of the various hereditary industries of the east have eagerly accepted the education of mission schools, and where these schools are, as at Marsovan, connected with college and hospital work, the training to practical work was a natural sequence. Yet the ingrained contempt of the Oriental mind for all labour that might be considered menial seemed an insurmountable obstacle to the adoption of a profession which included such effort. In this land of traditions and ideals there is a nice distinction between the kinds of help that can be rendered without loss of individual dignity. Personal service of any description, the care or tendance of other than their own bodies or those of their children, or the habitual performance of paid or even voluntary service, cannot be endured. A Turkish lady may give food or a cup of coffee to a patient, but she may not and will not cleanse the cup in which it has been offered.

It was an Armenian girl of family and position—a

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