

## Our Foreign Letter.

### A FEW DAYS IN DENMARK.

#### THE MILITARY HOSPITAL AT COPENHAGEN.



The Reformation, Shakespeare, the Defeat of the Armada, Cromwell's short shrift with the House of

Britons know very little about history, and, when it does not concern their own tight little island, care less. The Conquest,

established, and it was decreed by law to have one woman nurse for every ten patients. Further, in 1758, during the Seven Years' War, temporary field hospitals were established, and it was ordered that as many women nurses as the Chief Medical Officer might deem necessary should be utilised. In 1815 the Guldhus was ordered to be used as a military hospital for the garrison of Copenhagen, and in the year 1818 the present Garnisonssygehus was opened for this purpose, and has employed women nurses from its inception.

So, after all, our heroic and crude beginning at Scutari was not even pioneer work. Danish women had preceded us as officially accredited military nurses, for a matter of 230 years!

I felt distinctly aggrieved, and quite ready to blame the turbulent barons of Runymede for omitting to incorporate a clause regulating the position of women nurses in the Army amongst



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Commons, the Protestant Succession, the Infallibility of the British Constitution (under which, by the bye, all women save those born Sovereign, under Divine Providence, are slaves), constitute to the majority the sum total of the world's history.

Imagine, therefore, my surprise when conversing one day in Copenhagen with Dr. Gordon Norrie, a military doctor, to learn that there were women nurses provided to care for the sick soldiers in Denmark before the Crimean War. That as far back as the year 1625, during the Thirty Years' War, when the Danish Army was ravaged with sickness, a hospital was

the various little demands made, and unwillingly conceded, signed, and sealed by a captive King. Of course, the infallibility of the British Constitution made it impossible that the lack of initiative could be the result of the omission of women from citizenship.

These military nurses in Denmark were not "trained," of course, but it is reported that most of them were good, kind, and honest women. Yet later, the military authorities tried to replace them with male nurses, in order to have the latter for use in the field in case of war. It was in January, 1856, that the order to "train" male nurses was given, and the plan was to discharge

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