

Echoes of the Past.

Much has been written of the work of the nurses in the Crimean hospitals, but very little has been heard from the nurses themselves, or of their point of view; we believe, therefore, that the following extracts from letters addressed to the head of a nursing institution, which sent nurses out to work under Miss Nightingale, will be read with interest by many:—

From A. B.

Scutari,
Jan. 4th, 1855.

"I think I must commence with our journey after Mr. — left us at Paris; that day we went to Lyons, where we arrived at evening, and the next day, which was Wednesday, we went to Marseilles. We left Marseilles on Friday afternoon, and arrived at Malta on Monday evening; we went ashore before breakfast, and saw the church that Queen Adelaide had erected there. We went into a magnificent Catholic church, but I have forgotten the name [No doubt the Church of St. John of Jerusalem, the Church of the Knights of Malta.—Ed.]. We left Malta at eleven o'clock, and arrived at Constantinople on Saturday morning, and at Scutari in the afternoon. Our room, where we reside now, is very pleasant. We have twelve windows in it, and the scenery is most beautiful. We are in the tower and on the fifth floor; from some of the windows we have views of Constantinople, from others of the sea, and the General Hospital, and, in the distance, mountains covered with snow, from others beautiful green hills, and the cemetery, which is twelve miles long. A Greek town—the town of Scutari—and one of the Turkish mosques are close to us. Altogether it is a splendid panorama. . . . I have sent a piece of the Turkish flag that is hoisted every Friday on the tower where we are, likewise a rose from the garden at the General Hospital."

From the same.

Scutari,
Jan. 4th, 1855.

"I hope you will pardon me for not writing to you before, but as I had nothing very interesting to write to you I thought I had better wait as my sister nurses had written to let you know how we were situated. I am happy to inform you now that we are much more comfortable than we were, and our food much better, in fact, we have been having quite luxuries latterly. On Christmas Day Lady Stratford sent mince pies for us, and on New Year's Day we had mince pies and plum pudding. When we first came we thought it very strange not having pudding and pies, but we are quite accustomed to go without now.

"We have all suffered more or less from colds, some having sore throats, others the face ache, and some weak eyes, but I am thankful to say none have been seriously ill, which is a great blessing.

"We are very thankful that Miss — did not

come with us, for although the weather is very mild at times, still everything is very different, that instead of its being a pleasure I fear it would be too often to Miss — what it is to us, a great disappointment, for we should like to be doing much more than we are doing at present. We are all employed. A, B, and C go to the General Hospital, D and E, with one Sister, have a corridor and two wards here, and F and myself, with another Sister, have a corridor and two wards above theirs. We are not over-fatigued with our duties. There are frequently arrivals of sick, but scarcely any wounded since the ninth of November. That day's proceedings will never be erased from our minds. We had been resting nearly a week, so we were quite fit for duty."

From C. D.

Scutari Barracks,
Jan. 3rd, 1855.

"I should have written before but I wanted to be settled here, which I was on the 29th of December, after being ten days at the Ambassador's, where we arrived on the 19th, after a most perilous voyage. The land part of our journey was very pleasant, full of change, as we went ashore at Massina and Athens, which were very lovely; we went to see the latter more particularly on account of St. Paul having preached on the hill of Mars, which we saw, and many ancient things. It was a very fine day, almost like June in England.

"You will be surprised, Madam, that out of the great numbers which come out there are only two other nurses and myself come here. The rest are still at the Ambassador's, which is fifteen miles from Constantinople, a place called Therapia, where they are well cared for, but a great deal of discontent prevails amongst them on account of not being sent to their destination, which it seems there was no preparation for them. Mr. — who came out with us left on New Year's Day for England; he might be able to tell you when he comes why the nurses were not received by Miss Nightingale, as he was here a week.

"I have great pleasure in saying how well I found my sister nurses, all looking much better than when they left England. They were all pleased to see me, and it was overpowering to see the many ways they tried to welcome me; in a word, they made me as comfortable as I ever felt in my life, as they gave me the best corner in the dormitory, which is the tower room. The Devonport Sisters occupy one room, and we the other, which keeps us quite apart from the other nurses. We only have Mrs. —'s dark passage for a dining room or when we wait for orders which we find very convenient.

"We have plenty of good food, four good meals a day, with a pint of porter and some brandy for health's sake, and although the food is coarse it matters not, as we have fine appetites, which the air and exercise we are obliged to take in our duties impart, as we go to the hospital at nine o'clock in the morning, and stay till one or two

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