

successful. It was opened by the Countess of Aberdeen, who was received by members of the Executive Committee, which included the Matron of the Hospital, Miss L. V. Haughton. A magnificent bouquet of flowers was presented to her Excellency by Nurse Smith, and an address was read by Lady Walker.

On Thursday in last week, in lovely weather, some thirty members of the Ulster Branch of the Irish Nurses' Association and their friends spent a most enjoyable afternoon at Whitehead, and had tea on the verandah of Sunshine House, a great *rendezvous* for tea parties about a mile from the village. The outing was thoroughly appreciated by all who were able to take part in it.

Miss Edla Wortabet writes from Beyroust: "I always feel that my weekly BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is a weekly letter from you; I long to answer it at once, or dash in to see you, and have one of those talks which inspire one to go on with the fight of life. But here is now my duty, and, whilst longing to be in England, I am thankful to have an interest in so many hospital schemes here. . . . I have been asked by the Governor to take charge of the new Municipal Hospital in Beyroust, which is calculated to make such a splendid training school for nurses. It is a Government institution, and therefore non-sectarian; for, though the control is Turkish, and therefore Moslem, yet half the commission consists of Christian notables of the town. This Commission consists of three Moslems and three Christians, one of whom is a Roman Catholic, and two Greek Orthodox, at the head of which is the Governor. The doctors are to be chosen from the French and American professors of the two schools of medicine here, and two Moslem Syrians, both of whom I have known since they were boys—one studied at the French school here, and one in Paris—so that my French experience is invaluable to me now. The buildings of the new hospital in separate pavilions are still incomplete, and the men's block so far the only one opened.

"Last week the two young Moslem doctors performed an amputation on a poor old man for tubercular necrosis of the foot. I should like France to see the way it was done, thoroughly cosmopolitan, with few appliances, but the right way. The patient was bathed and a compress placed on the leg, then he was placed on a clean deal table covered with white oilcloth. A male attendant

came from the military hospital with the instruments, swabs, and dressings he had sterilised there. We, of course, used boiled water, and utilised some chairs as tables. One doctor gave the anæsthetic; the other, with the precision and deftness of the true surgeon, performed the operation; I acted as house-surgeon and assistant. The Turk from the military hospital was in charge of the instruments and dressings, the whole thing done within half an hour. With skill and cleanliness, how much can be accomplished, without any elaborate paraphernalia, just true surgery and true asepsis! However, by the autumn, I hope we shall have our operating theatre finished and equipped. I am now busy making lists of requisites and recruiting probationers, and as during my father's lifetime I must be non-resident, we are to have an English Sister as *surveillante* in each block. Here it has not been thought possible that nursing could be done, except by nuns. Halil Pacha, the Governor, was enthusiastic when I explained to him the English methods and principles. 'Ah! ah!' he exclaimed, 'modern nursing is based on scientific knowledge; nurses must not interfere with the religion of patients, any more than doctors do. Very good, very good, *cela sera une école des gardes malades civiles*.' And then he explained it to others present in Turkish, who approved warmly."

"I am somewhat of a privileged person with Moslems, as my father has done much for them. The first Moslem doctor was appointed at his instigation, and the only diplômée Moslem midwife is the result of his efforts, otherwise I should never have been offered such a position in the Turkish Empire. I only wonder what result I shall attain. . . . I have learnt many things in France, and from you since I organised the Greek Hospital here. I hope these years of experience have developed my powers for definite action. Those were precious hours I spent with you, and I hope to pass on to others the knowledge I have gained. Was it not Emerson who told us not to try to return kind deeds to the donor, but rather to pass them on to others who might need them?"

We felt sure to a spirit so ardent as that of Miss Wortabet, good work would be found waiting to be done, wherever she found herself. It seems that at Beyroust work is to hand which could only be performed by a woman possessing her cosmopolitan and versatile talents.

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