

as Russians, not Finns; and they therefore elected to attend as individuals. Even so, it was quite apparent that agents of the Russian secret police were closely watching their movements, as they were ordered by the police in the streets of Cologne to remove their armlets on which "Finland" was inscribed.

An interesting petition (says the *Standard*) has just been submitted to the Berlin Council from fifteen women's societies of that city, requesting that salaried women nurses shall in future be appointed to the public schools. The petition points out that although much has been done to improve the physique and health of school children through medical inspection and the distribution of free meals, the home life of the children has not been touched. By appointing school nurses to visit the children in their own homes, giving special attention to those whose names are on the medical or free meal lists, the Council could be sure that the doctors' orders were being correctly carried out, while the nurses could report on the home conditions, and, where necessary, give advice to the mothers on the care of the children.

Miss Polly Peele gives a delightful account in a Canadian contemporary of a Forest School for the delicate children of Toronto. She tells how a private street car starts at a quarter to eight from a certain street with half a dozen or more children—delicate, ill-nourished, or anæmic little boys and girls—who watch eagerly for the corners where other little groups wait, all wearing bright red badges, which act as an "Open Sesame" to Fairyland. For the car which picks them up carries them away to the old Victoria Park, wherein is situated the "Forest School"; and is not the Forest School only another name for a whole summerful of daylong picnics?

The children sit at long tables in an open space among tall trees, whose shadows on the grass are fringed with golden sunlight; the teacher at a little table, and behind her, from tree to tree stretches a blackboard, upon which she draws fascinating things with coloured chalks. School hours last only  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hour in the morning, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour in the afternoon, but the children learn very quickly out of doors. Playing, sleeping, ablutions, and tooth-brushing all take place out of doors, under the superintendence of Miss Hatch, the capable nurse.

From first to last the Bush Nursing question has aroused controversy in Australasia, and

the nursing profession have been very determined not to permit any system analogous to that in force in rural districts in England. The cabled news brought to the notice of the Premier at Melbourne that Dr. J. W. Barnett, of Melbourne, has been engaging nurses in England for Bush work in Victoria, has elicited the expression of opinion that English nurses could know nothing of Bush life in Australia, and that those born in the country are better qualified for the work, and that when more information was received steps would be taken to stop Dr. Barnett from proceeding further in the matter, or at least the Government would signify its disapproval.

With reference to the protest evoked from Australian nurses on Dr. Barnett's action, Dr. Edith Barrett, Secretary of the Victorian Bush Nursing Association, says the difficulty of obtaining nurses for service in the Bush is becoming so serious as to menace the progress of the Association's work. For several months the management has been unable to fill posts in new districts, in spite of advertisements in the daily newspapers and nursing journals, and the assistance of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association. In the circumstances Dr. Edith Barrett considers that she is justified in trying to obtain English trained nurses when Australians are not available.

The salary offered to the Bush nurse is £135 per annum, with transport and equipment provided. If nurses are not obtained from elsewhere, Dr. Edith Barrett states, some of the districts must do without them, and that is not desirable when there are highly-trained nurses in England and Canada willing to do the work. Should anything interfere to prevent these nurses from coming it will be a blow to Bush nursing, a movement which is the best attempt yet made to mitigate the hardships of life in the country.

#### GERMAN RED CROSS EXPEDITIONS.

Three expeditions, organized by the German Red Cross Society, have left Berlin for the seat of war. Two doctors, four dressers, and two nurses go to Constantinople; two doctors, two dressers, and eight nurses to Greece; and two doctors, two dressers, and four nurses to Bulgaria. Each party will be equipped with all the requisites of an operating-room.

Professor Bier, for many years body physician to the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid, has been summoned to Turkey to take over the direction of the Red Crescent organization in the field.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)