

NURSING NEWS AND THE WAR.

To the British Red Crescent Society belongs the honour of sending out the first hospital unit to the war which includes a staff of trained nurses. On Friday, Nov. 1st, by special train from Charing Cross, there left the *personnel* of the hospital organized by the above Society. Colonel Surtees, who is escorting the mission, genial and smiling, was in khaki, the Red Crescent conspicuous on the white band of his cap; the medical officers of the hospital are Dr. Calthrop and Dr. Bernard Haigh; the dressers, Mr. E. Copland (St. George's Hospital), Mr. G. Aspinall-Stivala (St. Bartholomew's), and Mr. H. F. Wight (Guy's). Most conspicuous were quite a little crowd of nurses, Sister Amy Stuart (trained at the General Infirmary, Salisbury) in charge, in black cloak and bonnet, the rest in brown circular cloaks and brown bonnets with veils, the Red Crescent forming a conspicuous point of colour on the left side of the cloaks. They were Sister Katherine Wheatley and Sister Gladys McKenzie, trained at Westminster Hospital; Sister Norah Dryhurst, at Kensington Infirmary; Sister Hilda Campbell-Ogg, at the Royal Infirmary, Portsmouth; and Sister Theresa Buckley, at the Mater Misericordiae, Belfast. The party also included four male nurses, Royal Navy and R.A.M.C. men. Photographers were busy taking groups of the party on the platform before the departure of the train, then last good-byes were said, and a hearty cheer was raised as the train steamed off. Amongst those on the platform were Mrs. Ameer Ali, Mrs. Montague, and other members of the Committee. The party travelled overland to Marseilles, and then on by boat to Salonika, which is their destination. They are taking everything required for the equipment of the hospital, the funds being supplied by public subscription by the Moslem community in this country. Miss Katherine Wheatley, who held the position of Massage Sister at the Fulham Infirmary, and who asked the Guardians to release her from her engagement, has had to forfeit a month's salary. We regret that the Guardians, under the circumstances, could not see their way to treat her more generously; still, a contract is a contract, and nurses must not complain if it is kept. We are glad to learn, however, that the British Red Crescent Society has paid Miss Wheatley the £4 which she forfeited, as she had signed her contract with the Society without knowing that this forfeiture would be required of her.

THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Although dozens of trained nurses who have volunteered their services for work in the war

have been told at the British Red Cross headquarters that none were being sent, as we reported last week, arrangements were in progress at the time to send out a contingent from the London Hospital. The party—which is in charge of Sister Edith Tucker, includes Nurses Eleanor Church, Alice Smith, Zenania Boles, Alberta Barnes, and Mabel Webb, who are to be known as the Duchess of Sparta's Special Nurses—left for Greece on November 1st, and before their departure were received at Marlborough House by Queen Alexandra, who decorated each in turn with the Red Cross Badge.

It is to be hoped that as an exception has been made in favour of the London Hospital, trained nurses from other institutions will be added to all the Red Cross units sent from England to help the wounded, for the financing of which the public are being asked to find an immense sum of money.

The British Red Cross Society announces that since their appeal the public response has amounted to £13,900, and that £7,500 has been expended in equipping and despatching the six units to Montenegro, Greece, and Turkey, none of which have trained women nurses attached. The total cost to the Society of these units cannot fail to be less than £1,000 a week, and the pressing needs of Servia and Bulgaria are not yet provided for. The Committee draws attention to the intense suffering in the Balkan campaigns, and the inadequacy of the field hospital service. The result is that the battlefields are strewn with men left to die, or linger in agony, with the added torments of hunger, thirst, and exposure, while the hospitals themselves are choked—a condition of things too appalling for contemplation.

We note that the Marchioness of Lansdowne, Georgina Countess of Dudley, and Lady Wantage are on the British Red Cross Committee. Surely they as women must realize how the ministrations of trained nurses would minimize these terrible conditions. Why are there no Matrons associated with these sympathetic peeresses in the management of the British Red Cross Society? The grave omission of which we complain would not then have been possible. In these days to exclude experts from such a national organization as the Red Cross Society proves how little the skilled work of women is appreciated in this country.

THE WELSH RED CROSS.

Mr. Lyn Thomas, of Cardiff, at the request of a number of prominent Welsh people, has organized a Welsh Red Cross unit for service in the Balkans. It leaves London on or about the 7th inst.

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