

essential in the interests of the sick that those who care for them should keep their nails very short, and brush them very frequently. Uniform should be convenient for work, have the minimum capacity for retaining infection, and be able to be put on quickly.

NURSING AT THE SEAT OF WAR.

According to the *British Medical Journal*, the British Red Cross Mission at the seat of war is now represented by a personnel of 213, made up as follows:—

- 3 Directors (1 for Turkey, 1 for Greece, 1 for North Balkan States).
- 34 Medical officers.
- 35 Dressers.
- 1 X-ray operator.
- 9 Sergeants.
- 2 Clerks.
- 5 Cooks.
- 118 Orderlies.
- 6 Trained female nurses.

This list does not include interpreters, cooks, bathmen, transport men, and other helpers engaged locally.

We are then informed that:—

“Ladies inquiring at the Society’s office are surprised to be informed that none of the belligerents have made application for English nurses. The reason, however, is obvious. An ample supply of well-trained hospital nurses is to be obtained much nearer at hand, namely, in Italy, Austria, and Germany. Nurses, indeed, are more easily obtained and at less cost from Southern France and Russia than from England. From Russia a large number of nurses have come in connection with the Greek Church,” and that “an ample supply of Turkish-speaking female nurses has been obtained locally.”

If these statements are inspired to excuse the negligence of the British Red Cross Society in failing to send out to the seat of war an adequate supply of British nurses—acknowledged to be the best in Europe—it only exposes the ignorance and injustice of the committee in this connection. Italy, Austria, France, and Russia have only of recent years begun to train civil nurses, and they owe much to the English women who have taken part in such training. Moreover, the committee has appealed to the British public for money to supply nurses, and until British nurses have proved themselves incapable of performing their duties, the committee has no right to exclude them and subsidise foreign

religious, and women of inferior qualifications, in their place. As a correspondent points out in another column, a very serious slur has thus been cast upon the nursing profession in this country.

We congratulate Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, the organizer of the Women’s Sick and Wounded Convoy Corps. A few weeks ago we had an appointment with her to talk over past experiences in the Græco-Turkish War, when behold a summons, and, like the woman of energy she is, she was off to the seat of war, and we never met. Now we learn from headquarters, 39, Great Smith Street, S.W., that in Lozengrade, not far from Kirk Kilisse, the little group of sixteen persons sent out by the Corps have set up their hospital. It is staffed by two women doctors, a surgeon, seven trained nurses, with cooks and other helpers, and they are attached to the Bulgarian Army and wear the Bulgarian Red Cross. Everywhere they have been met with kindness.

At Sofia, says the *Evening Standard*, where Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, the commandant, met them, the nurses were received by the Queen of Bulgaria in special audience. To each one she presented a signed photograph of herself, and the young Princesses offered bouquets. When the party left, the Queen’s equerry saw them off at the station, and Her Majesty had thoughtfully ordered a supply of provisions for the journey.

Customs officers at the frontiers showed them every courtesy, the mountain of baggage—sixty packages, without the hand luggage—was passed without question or delay. Stores, both medical and domestic, to the value of £400, were in those cases.

Kirk Kilisse was not the end of their travels, and the next journey was not accomplished in anything like such comfort. Before Lozengrade was reached the party had to travel for seven days through the mountains in slow ox-carts. One night they slept with some French nuns, but the other nights were spent in the open. There in the solitude of the mountains they outspanned the oxen, tucked themselves up in the wagons, and slept till sunrise.

At last the long caravan came into Lozengrade, and within thirty hours of arrival the women, with the seven men who have been placed under their orders to do the heavy work, had got the hospital in working order. Truly a splendid achievement for the Women’s Sick and Wounded Convoy Corps!

This is the first time that an opportunity has arisen for testing the practical value of the training undergone by the members of the

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