

Corps. None but those who have completed the three years' course have gone out, and all are over thirty years of age.

#### THE TRUTH FROM SCUTARI.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have seen notices in several English papers to the effect that the Red Crescent Society are doing nothing, and though we are not here to criticise or defend, I think it is fair it should be made known in an equally public manner that this refers to the Ottoman Red Crescent Society, who are beset by many difficulties, not the least being the tremendous number of troops engaged and the huge tract of territory over which they are distributed.

The *British* Red Crescent Society is quite distinct from the above, and as many people in England are subscribing to our funds it is well to make the difference known. We do not wish to advertise ourselves in any way, but I should be glad if you would insert a brief notice to the above effect in case any misunderstanding should occur in the minds of our fellow nurses and others.

Our first unit went up to St. Stefano only three days ago, and the paragraph in the *Daily Telegraph*, saying that Red Crescent attendants stood about refusing water and bread or to lift the heads of the cholera people, was written some days before our party arrived. Our hands are full here, and our Society is leaving no stone unturned to relieve the sufferings of the people.

Yours sincerely,

Scutari, KATHERINE H. WHEATLEY.  
November 29th, 1912.

In Tuesday's *Times* the special correspondent, writing from Constantinople on the San Stefano Hospital, remarked on the opportune arrival of the English contingent of the Red Crescent "which has already done excellent work."

Miss Alt, who is now in the British Seamen's Hospital, Stamboul, was, after her breakdown with overwork, nursed by Sister Stewart and Sister Mackenzie at the hospital at St. Stefano organized by the British Red Crescent Society. Sister Wheatley is in charge at Scutari, and the wounded treated have done wonderfully well, many having already returned to the front.

Cholera is now a thing of the past, or exists in a very mild form, but there is great suffering from dysentery and gangrene. The nurses are doing much work amongst the refugees. Nothing can exceed the courtesy with which they are being treated by all concerned, nor the gratitude expressed for their skilled work, which is considered invaluable.

#### THE NURSES' CHORAL AND SOCIAL LEAGUE.

A most delightful and enjoyable musical At Home was given on December 6th by Mrs. Carreg-McCowan, the President, to the members of the Nurses' Choral and Social League, at 50, Queen's Gate. Many members, matrons and nurses, were present, and the business meeting was first held, at which a most satisfactory report was presented, after which songs and recitations and tea followed in the dining-room. At 5.30 Dr. Cyril Horsford gave a short but very interesting address on Voice Production.

#### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

It is with much pleasure that I read your executive committee's report of our past year's work. We have had the great pleasure of having the consent of Her Highness the Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig-Holstein to become the Patron of our League, and I am sure I am voicing the opinion of all members of the Nurses' Choral and Social League that her consenting to be our Patron has been a great joy and pleasure to one and all.

Miss Barton consenting to be Vice-President has been a great help to our League: she takes such a real interest in the work.

During the autumn and spring terms we held 163 classes, eight at infirmaries and two open classes taken by the conductor, open to all nurses and hon. members. We add to our infirmary classes this year four new ones, namely, Upper Edmonton, Bethnal Green, Isleworth and Shore-ditch.

The spring open classes at Maida Vale were held by the kind invitation of the Matron of Paddington Infirmary at 84, Warwick Avenue. This was a great help to the League, not to have to pay 10s. 6d. per class for the room.

Our membership has greatly increased in numbers. In 1911 and 1912 we numbered on our list over 500.

At the concerts our Choral numbered over 200 on the platform. Our concerts were most successful. We held one at the Kensington Town Hall December, 1911, and another in March at the Caxton Hall.

The Press were very kind in their remarks, and highly complimented the Choral on its progress.

Our conductor, Dr. Hickox, and all the other teachers tell us it is a real pleasure to them, these classes, as everyone connected with our Choral are so happy and interested and they carry out our motto in the true sense. Harmony and goodwill is so thoroughly the order of the day with all. We must take this opportunity to express our thanks to the professionals who helped us at our concert and at our "At-home," and also the Nursing

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