

Nurse Frances Spencer, who gained her certificate last March, and has a thorough knowledge of both medical and surgical nursing.

By degrees, in spite of the prohibition of the British Red Cross Society, quite a number of well-trained British nurses are finding their way to the Near East, where their skilled services are urgently needed, and sincerely appreciated.

We learn that the British nurses asked for by the Crown Princess of Greece and the Prince of Montenegro are all doing credit to the patron saint of military nursing—our own Florence Nightingale.

Mr. C. T. Brereton, 1st Division Corps, St. John's Ambulance Brigade, a member of the British Red Crescent unit at Scutari, has sent some very interesting letters to the press. In one he writes:—

"I am quite well and very busy, no time for anything but to attend to patients' wants. I am hoping for an opportunity to explore Scutari some day. It is a part of the great city of Constantinople, and is very primitive and purely Turkish. You would be very interested in our latest addition to the hospital staff. He is a dear little fellow, aged 14, of aristocratic birth, and a midshipman in the Turkish Navy. Having a short vacation, he came in the other day, and asked if he might lend a hand. He spoke fairly good English, but speaks French more perfectly. Shy at first, he is now very useful in many ways. He interprets, fetches and carries, and is quite the ray of sunshine to the whole establishment. What struck me most about him was that he can assist in the dressing of the most gruesome wounds, and shows not the slightest flinch or horror. We call him the 'little admiral,' and have provided him with a white operating gown, of which he is very proud. We got a further batch of wounded Turks to-day. They were very hungry and tired, and in many ways show appreciation for the food and treatment given them. Col. Surtees, D.S.O., is quite a fatherly commanding officer. Considering his age, he is a marvel; up early and late, here, there and everywhere, with encouraging words for everybody."

The loss of life from disease in the Turkish Army is estimated at 25,000.

THE ANTI-REGISTRATION UKASE AT BART'S.

A Sister at St. Bartholomew's Hospital recently asked the Matron, Miss Annie McIntosh, for permission to use the Library in the Nurses' Home for a meeting at which the nurses might consider the question of State Registration. To her astonishment and indignation the request was refused, as Miss McIntosh considers the organization of the Nursing Profession and legal status for trained nurses "absolutely unnecessary." Miss McIntosh then obtained the support of the Committee (the Treasurer and Almoners) to her prohibition of free speech to the Nursing Staff, and subsequently it was announced that by their orders no such meeting is to be held in the hospital for the future!

Here we have unjustifiable tyranny, naked and unashamed—the denial of liberty of conscience, where their own professional affairs are concerned, by the Matron to the whole Nursing Staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and as such action cannot be permitted to pass without consideration, and protest, we shall review at some length the whole situation.

For thirty years, until the lamented death of the late Matron, Miss Isla Stewart, the relations of Treasurers and Almoners of St. Bartholomew's Hospital and their Nursing Staff were those of most cordial goodwill, consideration and respect, and mutual advantage for the welfare of the institution and the well-being of the patients.

I speak from personal experience of six years as Matron in the eighties, when the Nursing Department was organized on modern educational and disciplinary lines, and I recall with gratitude, the generous and liberal attitude of every governor with whom I came in contact, towards suggested reforms for the happiness of all concerned, and reforms were not accomplished in kid gloves in those days, but by strenuous efforts, self-denial, work often day



MISS ANNETTE OBEÉ.

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