

NURSING ECHOES.

MILITARY NURSING.

Her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes requisitioned fifty nurses from the United Kingdom during the recent wars in the Near East to care for sick and wounded soldiers in Greece, on whose skilled services the expenditure was indeed well invested. Imagine the suffering relieved, the valuable lives saved, the happiness of health restored! Queen Sophia proved herself a fine political economist in this connection.

The British people who generously subscribed £50,000 to be expended by our British Red Cross Society, in caring for the sick and wounded in the recent wars, would, if they realised it, deeply regret that the skilled services of trained nurses were persistently excluded from the units sent out on foreign service, and that it remained for the Queen of the Hellenes to defray the cost of the British nurses evidently so urgently needed in her scheme for the efficient nursing of the Army.

In the 1897 Græco-Turkish War we had only to ask to receive, and the £10,000 so eagerly subscribed by the British public to the Fund for the Greek Wounded, provided gratis the entire equipment and upkeep, including the medical, nursing, and domestic services, of two hospitals for three months, nursing service at the *Ecole Militaire*, at the Military Hospital at Athens, and also at Arta, Patras, and in Eubœa! At the end of the War the surplus of £3,000 was handed to his late Majesty King George for the relief of the refugees.

This was a very practical proof of the sympathy of the British with the Greek people in a time of national need and sorrow, and could easily have been repeated on the present occasion, did not our British Red Cross Society profess to do what it has failed to accomplish. The keynote of its obtuse and obstructive policy so far as trained nursing is concerned is summed up in a statement to be found under the heading, "The Objects of the Society": "Voluntary aid, unless it precisely accords in every detail with the requirements of the Naval and Military Authorities, is a doubtful advantage, or even an active hindrance."

We gather from the humane perspicuity evinced by the Queen of the Hellenes in providing care for her sick soldiers, that she was uninfluenced by this bureaucratic bombast—in so far as the value she places on the services of skilled women nurses in war, and we assure Her Majesty that in requisitioning their services British nurses deeply appreciate the proof of

her confidence, and value of their work, and only regret that, as in the past, it was not provided as a free gift by the British people, as they feel sure was intended by them in the disbursement of their £50,000.

DISTRICT NURSING.

The representations made by the Scottish Council of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute as to the necessity for every county in Scotland where Queen's Nurses are employed having a County Association, has roused a certain amount of apprehension that the high standard of district nursing maintained by the Scottish Branch, may be lowered, as it has been by County and Cottage Nursing Associations in the rural districts in England. This fear, we are assured from headquarters, is groundless.

The objects for which such a County Association was recently founded in Ayr are as follows:—

(1) To select, if possible, local candidates for training as Queen's Nurses, the Scottish Council being prepared to give such training, free of expense, to all suitable candidates who have received the requisite General Hospital training.

(2) To assist local Associations by providing temporary Nurses in the event of epidemic or disaster in any part of the county.

(3) To co-operate with the County Council, Parish Councils, Town Councils, School Boards, and other Local Authorities in putting in force their various statutory powers, such as the Notification of Births, School Medical Inspection, and nursing of Tuberculosis and other diseases.

(4) To receive donations or legacies for the purpose of creating a central fund from which assistance might be given towards the formation and upkeep of new districts in poorer parts of the county and for providing for increased emoluments for Queen's Nurses in the county.

At a recent meeting of the Dublin County Council it was agreed to send the following notice of motion to the County Insurance Committee for consideration:—

That it is advisable to consult with the approved societies with a view to ascertain if they are willing to enter into a joint nursing scheme with the County Council, subject to its approval on the following, amongst other conditions, viz.: The County Council to appoint, control and pay a staff of qualified nurses, whose services will be at the disposal of the doctors in attendance on county patients receiving sick benefits from the approved societies in their own homes when injured; the

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