

me, and a V.A.D. since. A few weeks ago at the Casino branch there was talk about 40 V.A.D.'s who were being sent over to release orderlies, and some of the V.A.D.'s—who, having plenty of money, had been given more privileges than Staff Sisters by the Sister-in-Charge—remarked, "What class of girls will they be if they have come over here to do orderlies' work?" Another said, "Of course, they could not expect girls of our class to scrub, brought up as we have been." One very sensibly said, "We had to scrub where I was, and the Hon. Miss So-and-So scrubbed also." Of course, many of them are exceedingly nice girls and very capable, and no one was more surprised than they were when they came abroad and found they received so much money. One told me she saved £9 or £10 every month out of what she got. As a rule they all have private means, so you can easily imagine that the Sisters think it very unjust that fellow-nurses in England who have no money or prospects should not get the chance of saving a little for the dark days surely coming. My V.A.D. on night duty told me she was only three weeks attending an infirmary hospital before coming out here, and a girl who came out with her had not been in hospital a day. She was greatly surprised at receiving so many allowances.

There is not a Sister in France, I believe, who does not think the V.A.D.'s an especially privileged class compared with the nursing profession. Fancy fully-trained nurses costing £80 and V.A.D.'s £160 in a hospital of this size—this is roughly, of course, but just twice as much as we do.

There is one thing: any V.A.D. works better than an orderly. The men are more lazy and have less endurance than women. I will tell you later if our allowances are stopped."

QUOTES FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE NEAR EAST.

"You ask for an account of the voyage, but I fear the details must wait. However, I will try and describe some of my surroundings. Weather last month (January) was like an English September, brilliant sunshine and the most vivid of blue skies. The colouring of the sea and coast was perfectly glorious. No wonder artists are ever ready to reproduce such colouring. The houses are numerous and most peculiar and mingling among the seething masses of inhabitants are many uniforms, both naval and military. The children are perfectly lovely; some very fair, with lovely big eyes, others intensely dark. The young girls are handsome, too, and a few of the youths, but their good looks fade rapidly, and it is rare to see a good-looking woman over thirty, whilst the men are positively repulsive.

"The women and young girls, and even children, wear an extraordinary head-dress. At first I thought it was an excellent combination for rain or sun, used instead of an umbrella, but since I have had its origin related to me. It seems that the Bishop of the island caused the priests to impose a punishment on the people for their sins, and ordered this headgear, called a 'valdetta,' to

be worn by all for 100 years. The time has now almost expired. This apparel is very expensive, costing from £3 upwards, according to the material, whether black figured silk or ordinary black cloth. It has cardboard in the middle, which rests across the top of the head, covered with black material, which hangs down and serves as a cape and hat in one. . . .

"The easiest way to explore is to hire a 'carozzi,' but one must never accept the driver's charge or 'fare'; the correct fare is generally half what he originally asked. Also, never give more than the amount arranged, as the change will be useless. I must describe 'the sights' in my next, also the festival in memory of St. Paul and his shipwreck, and a few of the people's superstitions. The train service leaves much to be desired. I entered the station one day and waited 'some time.' I noticed the stationmaster had a good fifteen minutes' conversation whilst the telephone 'buzzed' loudly and finally remained unanswered. At last the tiny train crawled in and waited for passengers. There were three carriages, like cattle trucks. I boarded her minus a ticket, but I bought one on the train, and we crawled onwards to our destination. I must mention I had waited patiently for some time outside the office marked 'tickets,' but in this part of the world no one ever hurries.

"Sixteen inches of rain in two hours is the record here, but I found that 16 in. in 12 hours was quite sufficient when I was out. . . ."

NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ARMY NURSES' ALLOWANCES.

In the House of Commons on Thursday, the 16th inst., Mr. Pennefather asked the Financial Secretary to the War Office if by a General Order recently issued the allowances to nurses mentioned in Army Order No. 501, of 1914, had been withdrawn; and, if so, would he state what those allowances were, why they were originally given, why they had been withdrawn, and the sums saved by their withdrawal?

Mr. Forster, in a printed reply, said: "Special allowances for lodging, fuel, and light were granted to officers at the front by Army Order 501, of 1914, in aid of the expenses of maintaining their families at home. These have not been withdrawn; but the same allowances were issued to nurses on the ground that they normally receive officers' allowances, and on a review of the question it was decided that these issues were unnecessary and should be discontinued. The saving is at the rate of about £180,000 a year."

PENSIONS FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND NURSES.

We have received the following interesting information from Mr. John Baker, F.F.I., F.S.S., Hon. Secretary of the Association of Approved Societies, and are pleased to note that the case of trained nurses invalided out of the Territorial

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