

company, rest, read, write, recreate, or "talk shop."

No members of a profession enjoy (?) more gratuitous advice concerning themselves than trained nurses. It is amazing how cocksure is the untrained woman journalist about all things nursing—to judge from penny a line effusions which appear in print. Every reason but the right one is advanced as the reason for a shortage of probationers. The true reason is idleness where physical and mental concentration and drudgery are demanded. Thus hundreds of girls find it less exacting to flutter around and splash good ink on indifferent paper, and criticise the world in general in still more indifferent grammar, than to give the necessary time to train for the exacting, satisfying, and extremely useful profession of nursing.

Complaints were made at an inquest at Redhill recently against a nurse at the local infirmary, who, it was alleged, would not allow John Henry Lucas, aged 78, lying in bed with a broken thigh, the use of a bed bottle.

It was stated by a stepson that when he visited Lucas he was in great pain, and the nurse refused to allow him a bed bottle, as it was visiting day.

The nurse, questioned by the coroner, said she understood it was against the rules to use the bed bottle when visitors were present. She admitted it was not a proper thing to keep the old man waiting an hour and a half for it.

The coroner, who certified that death was due to accident, said the conduct of the nurse was a matter for investigation by the guardians.

It is only a few weeks ago since we referred to complaints made by patients that nurses refused to give bed pans to children and others in the ward. As this is a most cruel and unjustifiable neglect of duty, it should be a direction in every ward that pans and bottles be given if required at convenient hours, but that under no circumstances should either be refused even at inconvenient seasons if needed by the patients. Sick people in public wards are diffident of asking for such service when the staff or visitors are present, unless it is absolutely necessary; and under such conditions, a nurse should at once comply with the request.

## A NURSES' UNIT FOR GREECE.

### HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

It is now 24 years since the first Unit of thirty British Nursing Sisters were requisitioned for active service in a Græco-Turkish war, and how well those pioneers—many of them members of the Registered Nurses' Society—acquitted themselves, is still a tradition in Hellas. History now repeats itself, the Queen of Greece having requisitioned a Unit of six members of the R.N.S. to proceed to Athens at the earliest possible date to help nurse sick and wounded in the present campaigns against the Turkish Nationalists, who are against any compromise with the Entente Powers, such as suggested at the Near East Conference in London, the Porte demanding the unconditional evacuation of Thrace and Ionia.

The Unit will leave London at an early date, by the Orient express train de luxe *via* France, Switzerland, Italy, Serbia and Greece—a five days' train journey overland—and a fine opportunity of seeing 2,292 miles of Europe under the best possible conditions.

The Unit will be in charge of Sister Catherine Ann Evans, who worked in the Red Cross Hospital, Gira, Cairo, and at No. 7 Convalescent Hospital, Alexandria, 1915-1919.

The following Sisters, all of whom have practical experience of Military nursing, complete the Unit:—

Sister Kathleen Bellamy (French Flag Nursing Corps), Comité Britannique Croix Rouge Française.

Sister Laura Dumvill, Officers' Hospital, Luton Hoo.

Sister Elsie Agnes Nunn (Territorial Force Nursing Service), 1st London General Hospital; Salonika, with British Forces; Constantinople, 82nd General Hospital.

Sister Edith Annie Post (French Flag Nursing Corps), Comité Britannique Croix Rouge Française.

Sister Martha Oakley Williams (French Flag Nursing Corps), Comité Britannique Croix Rouge Française.

The uniform, simple and professional, blue and white throughout (the Greek colours), has been supplied by Messrs. Garrould, 50, Edgware Road, London, W.

The Registered Nurses Society is indebted to His Excellency M. Caclamano, the Minister for Greece, for the courteous manner in which he has facilitated the arrangements, and who considers he owes his life to the nursing of Mrs. Endall (*née* Parsons), who was one of the 1897 Unit, and who remained in Greece for several years at the request of the then Crown Princess. Thus we realise how duty well done enhances the estimation in which the community hold our devoted British Nurses. We feel sure the present Unit will use their utmost endeavour to maintain the high reputation—and even advance it—won by their colleagues "in the good old days."

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