The Victoria Hospital, Cairo.

Contributors

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Hospital M

THE

VICTORIA HOSPITAL,

CAIRO.

Patrons:

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY VICTORIA,

HIS HIGHNESS THE KHEDIVE OF EGYPT.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, K.G.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT.

H.E. THE EARL OF DUFFERIN AND CLANDEBOYE, K.P.

H. E. ISMAID PACHA EVOUB, Minister of the Interior.

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THE VERY REV. DEAN BUTCHER.

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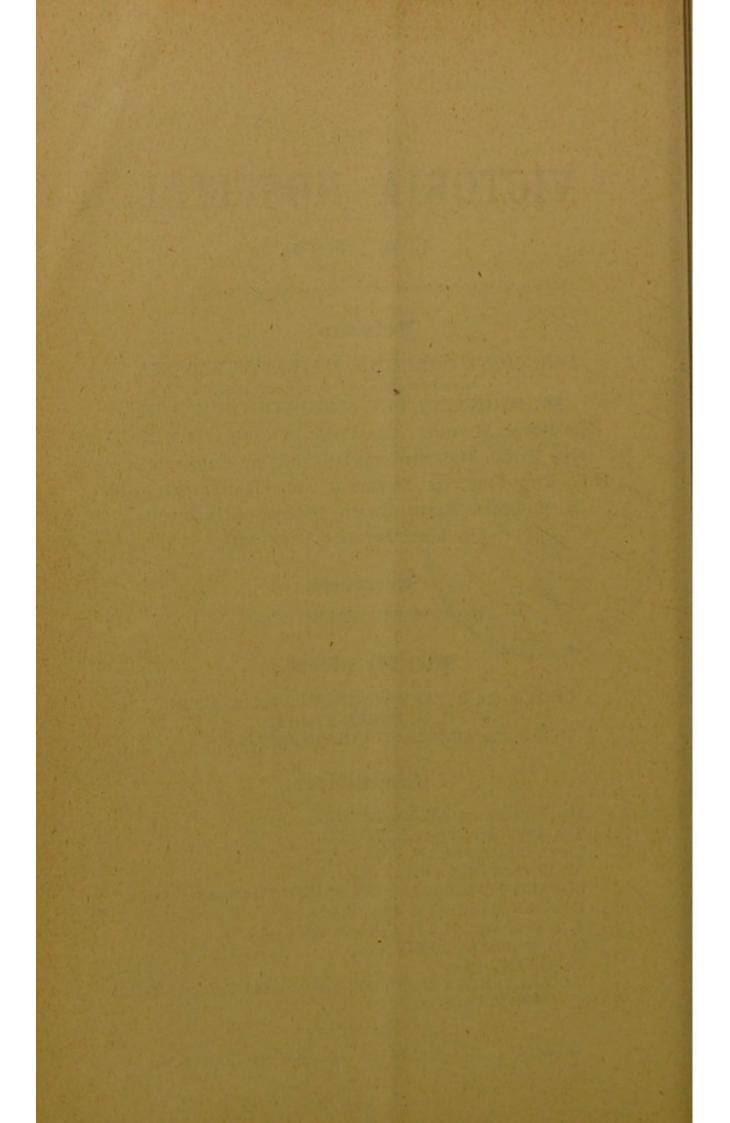
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DR. GRANT BEY.

DR. ALEXANDER MURISON, Secretary and Resident Medical Officer in Charge.

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1883



THE EGYPTIAN RELIEF FUND REPORT.

In August, 1882, a lady acquainted with Alexandria brought to the notice of the central Committee of the St. John Ambulance Association the distress which existed among the Arab population in Egypt, and urged some scheme of relief for which the St. John organization was well adapted. Others, including Mr. Cookson, urged some such course also, so as to be ready when the refugees should return to Alexandria from Malta, Cyprus, &c. A subcommittee was formed to collect funds from the various ambulance centres and from the general public, consisting of the following—

THE RIGHT HON. VISCOUNTESS STRANGFORD, 3, Upper Brook Street, W.

GENERAL BURNABY, M.P., Baggrave Hall, Leicester.

SIR E. A. H. LECHMERE, BART., M.P., Rhydd Court, Upton-on-Severn.

SIR W. P. ANDREW, 29, Bryanston Square, W.

LIEUT.-COLONEL F. DUNCAN, R.A., 29, The Common, Woolwich.

CAPTAIN H. C. PERROTT, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, E.C.

DOUGLAS H. GORDON, Esq., Treasurer, 6, Tite Street, Chelsea, S.W.

At first the movement was checked by letters throwing doubts on the existence of any suffering, but the fact that a large local fund has been found necessary in Alexandria, proves the wisdom and foresight of those men like Mr. Cookson, who urged measures being taken to afford relief.

The sub-committee decided on asking the Viscountess Strangford to proceed to Egypt, and ascertain the real state of the case, and the best method of relieving suffering if she found it to exist. Lady Strangford's previous experience in hospital work in the East made her specially fitted for the duty which she was asked to impose upon herself; and the Committee cannot speak in sufficiently high terms of her tact, courage, and devotion. She was accompanied by Mr. Sieveking, as medical officer, several trained nurses, and a considerable supply of medical and relief stores was sent at the same time. The sudden collapse of the war diverted her energies into hospital rather than to relief work, as will be seen in her own narrative, but the object of the Committee has been completely fulfilled in leaving in Egypt a permanent record of English practical philanthropy.

The organization of the St. John Ambulance Association proved invaluable, and through its agency not merely was large pecuniary assistance obtained, but the names of hundreds of volunteers were received and registered, who were ready to go and work under Lady Strangford. A very touching appeal to the public was made in December by Mr. R. Lopes, whose son had died in the hospital founded by Lady Strangford; and the response to it enabled the Committee to hand over the Hospital in a very efficient state to the local managing Committee

The sub-committee in publishing this Report and statement of accounts, begs to thank the many subscribers who enabled them to strengthen Lady Strangford's hands, and has gratefully to acknowledge the sympathy and cooperation, which they received on all occasions from the London and provincial press. The labours of the Committee were arduous and anxious, but they are rewarded by the presence in Egypt of an English hospital, under the patronage of Her Majesty, and of H.H. the Khedive.

F. DUNCAN,

Lt.-Colonel, R.A.

Dep. Chairman, St. John's Ambulance Association.

REPORT

OF THE

EGYPTIAN RELIEF FUND.

BY VISCOUNTESS STRANGFORD.

On the 9th of August Lt.-Colonel Duncan, R.A., requested me to undertake the organisation and administration of a Relief Fund for the refugees in Alexandria; a commission which, after some hesitation, I accepted. The Relief to be given was not to consist of the distribution of food or labour only, but was to include the formation of rough hospitals for the reception of the refugees; and as it appeared likely that these hospitals would be the prominent feature of the Relief, I hoped to bring the experience of the last few years into practical use. I ascertained that three of the nurses who had been with me in Turkey, were able and willing to serve with me again, and I therefore felt confidently hopeful of success. My work began in purchasing a quantity of articles for the manufacture of clothes, viz., needles, thread, &c.; and in getting ready the equipment, as far as beds and linen, for the needs of a hospital to hold sixty patients. A small stock of drugs, &c., was also prepared. One of the four nurses engaged spoke Arabic: and a superintendent for the laundry, also fluent in the ways and language, was found. Mr. Herbert Sieveking, was selected to take the hospitals in charge.

It was decided that I should proceed by Brindisi to Egypt, while the doctor and nurses, &c., came by sea from Liverpool. I left England on the 6th of September, and embarked at Venice, in the P. and O. steamship, Malwa. We sighted Port Saïd early on the 14th, and were immediately after signalled by an outcoming steamer, "Great victory: war over."

I had, however, seen enough of the consequences of war to be sure that such help as I could give would be as much needed after, as during the fighting.

An hour later we entered the Canal, and the governor of Port Saïd, Emin Bay, immediately came on board the *Malwa*, bringing me kind messages of welcome to Egypt, from His Highness the Khedive. He then took me to the Khedivieh steamer,

where cabins had been reserved for me by His Highness' orders, and he informed me that he had been desired to accompany me to Alexandria. On arriving there on the morning of the 15th, I found Salem Pasha, chief physician to the Khedive, waiting to conduct me to the hotel; he told me that the Khedive wished to see me in two days. Alexandria was naturally in a state of the highest excitement, and so full of people, that not even the dazzlingly white ruins of the burned city could look triste or melancholy. I lost no time in making enquiries as to the fulfilment of the commission I had undertaken; but the condition of everything had changed, and whatever number of refugees might have poured into Alexandria at the commencement of the fighting, not one had been left in the city, for all had been conveyed to Malta, Trieste, Cyprus, and other places. It was impossible, therefore, to fulfil the commission I had accepted literally. How was I to make myself useful?

The lines outside Alexandria were still kept by the rebels, and nearly all the towns in the Delta were yet in their hands; but their retention was only the question of a few days, and it appeared very unlikely that any large number of fellaheen would come into Alexandria; nor was it probable that there would be many sick or wounded among them. Had there been, however, a sudden return of refugees, there was ample accommodation for them in the two superb hospitals belonging to the German deaconesses and the Greek community;* hospitals that would be a credit to any city. I learned also that those who had fled from Alexandria would not be allowed to return for a considerable time. I felt therefore, a little discouraged when I drove to the Ras-et-Tin palace on the afternoon of the 18th.

His Highness and the Princess received me with the warmest and kindest words of welcome, and of thankfulness to those who had sent this peaceful mission of aid to his countrymen. But the Khedive at once added most earnestly "There are no refugees here: will you go and nurse my poor soldiers?" Of course I assented gladly, and we discussed the question of where such aid was most needed and would be best supplied. It had been suggested that I should re-model the Arab hospital just outside Alexandria; but the result would at the best have been unsatisfactory, and only a very small number of the wounded would be brought there. I

^{*} This hospital is superintended by an English lady.

asked to be sent up to Cairo by the first train that could get along the line, and then suggested that His Highness should give me the house that had been occupied by the rebel Arabi. The Princess laughed heartily at the idea, and said it would be "trés juste"; and the Khedive promised I should have it if possible.

The railway station on the 20th was a sight to be remembered; from early dawn it was densely crowded by a vast multitude of men, all of them struggling to get tickets for the train to Cairo. An engine had passed safely over the newly-laid, or rather re-laid metals at Kefrdowar, and every one who had property in Cairo wished to see its condition with their own eyes. News came by telegram again and again as we waited in the station, of the safety of such and such families, and the joyful relief to the hearts of many of the anxious husbands and fathers who had left their homes in Cairo, made many touching scenes. Some had been unable to get news of them for many weeks. It became evident that the whole of this crowd would not be carried off at once: the railway managers, however, contrived to despatch a single carriage in advance containing Riaz Pasha, the Minister of the Interior; and his Excellency was good enough to give up a compartment for myself and my companions. These were H.E. Salem Pasha, into whose charge the Khedive had given me; Colonel Money, who kindly undertook to give me rooms in his brother's house; Dr. Murison, and some others. Cairo was soon reached and we found Shepheard's hotel promising its first dinner that evening.

Next morning Salem Pasha took me to see the house I had asked for; in situation it was perfect, and there were plenty of rooms (over forty), but it was in a fearful state of ruin and dirt. Arabi had left it only four days previously, and, no doubt as a proof of their own loyalty, the neighbours had stripped it of everything; the handles off the doors, even the bars from the kitchen fire and the doors from the ovens, while scarcely a window remained unbroken.

Arrangements were quickly made for its being cleaned and repaired, and then Salem Pasha took me to see the large Arab Hospital at the Kasr-el-Ain just beyond the palace usually occupied by the Khedive. This hospital is an enormous building, containing beds for 1000 men, a place for lunatics, and also a separated building for women; these last I did not visit. One half of the building is occupied with rooms for students, of whom there are upwards of 400. These young men come from the country, and

are lodged, boarded and clothed entirely at the expense of the Government; their training lasts four to five years, after which they are appointed to the towns and villages all over Egypt. They were drawn up in groups at the door of each ward as we came in, dressed in snowy white loose gowns; there were also about thirty medical men in attendance to receive his Excellency. Some of the wounded had come in only a few hours before, many on the previous day; there were some horrible objects among them and many were dying. The journey not only from the field of Tel-el-kebir, but from the villages to which the poor fellows had dragged themselves after the battle, proved more fatal to many of them than the wounds. The hospital was a dreary, terrible place; no doubt the patients were kindly attended to, but nothing that could be done, would have made it really comfortable. I was most thankful when the visit was over.

Mr. Sieveking arrived that evening, and we at once set vigorously to work preparing our house for the future hospital. We had to see to all the cleaning, repairing and repainting of the house, water and pipes to arrange, and kitchens to put in order; a half ruined stable was turned into a splendid laundry, with water laid on and drains to carry it off; the result, after much trouble, was most satisfactory. A vast mountain of dust and rubbish was removed, the little court was flagged, and a pleasant garden replaced the dust heaps; the workmen laboured early and late with a clumsy readiness that soon got every thing accomplished, not well but some how. The whole of this work was done at the expense of his Highness the Khedive. Meantime, with the untiring assistance of Colonel Money, we got the furniture bought, not however without difficulty. Not a European shop in the whole city was open, and very few Arab shops: for all the Europeans left Cairo early in June, and the Arabs mostly closed before the entry of the British troops. I fancy that my own appearance in the city, where I was, for fully a fortnight, the only European woman, did as much as anything to allay the fears of the Arabs and semi-Europeans, and every day saw more and more shops re-opened. And I may mention here that even in the first days of excitement and confusion, we met with nothing but the most obliging civility wherever we went, though we had frequently to penetrate into the utmost depths of native bazaars and lanes; nor indeed did the people seem to interest themselves with any keenness in the events of the past summer.

The bedsteads given by the townsmen of Leicester, were long delayed on the voyage; they were intended for the Arab patients only, and we had to get others for ourselves. This was soon done at a trifling expense, for Cairo shops have always a cane sofa at the door, or close to it, for the convenience of the midday siesta; the Egyptians lie stretched on the open cane work, simply wrapped in a blanket; but the addition of a mattress makes a most comfortable and healthy bed. The cost of each is about one shilling, but I at once had a number made ten inches longer, and with canes at the corners to support mosquito nets,* and this brought the cost to two and half francs. The sea weed† stuffing for the mattresses had already been sent from Constantinople, and was soon put into canvass cases.

While the whole place was yet full of workmen, we took up our abode in the half ready house, so quickly that only just a fortnight had elapsed between the arrest of Arabi and our own occupation of his house. But even before this our work had begun. The hotels as fast as they opened were rapidly filled with English officers, and among these many sickened. Every day came a fresh entreaty for nurses to attend some bad case, and all the nurses were at work within two days of their arrival. We had come to Cairo at the Khedive's request, to nurse his Arab soldiers, but here were our own sick countrymen needing nursing infinitely more than wounded men, for enteric fever and dysentery require far more nursing than wounds. The nurses could not be spared out of the house except for great emergency, nor were the overfilled hotels desirable places for invalids; and so it came to pass, that some days before we were in readiness for the Arabs, I was forced to bring English officers out of the hotels into our Hospital if they were to be nursed by my nurses. They were of course

^{*}These mosquito curtains were necessaries for the Europeans; the Arabs did not need them. But the flies were the cause of much suffering to the natives, and I gave them small pieces of muslin to lay over their faces when sleeping. It was a trifle in itself, but it impressed the natives immensely, and they were very grateful for the relief. His Highness the Khedive noticed it at once when he visited the Hospital, and was quite excited with pleasure; he cried out:— "C'est adorable! on dort proprement!"

[†] This invaluable sea weed ought to be more in use than it is for hospitals; it is inexpensive, soft and springy: thoroughly clean, for it makes no dust of itself: carries no infection: and however much soiled, when it is thrown into water, boiled and dried in the sun, is as good as ever, and nothing wears it out.

attended by whatever medical man had the case in hand, and of course, also, Mr. Sieveking could not attend any such cases while he was attending open wounds. That we should do all we could for our own officers was only in accordance with the wish strongly expressed by the Director General of the A.M.D., previous to my leaving England, that in the event of assistance being required, I would hold my staff and all else at the disposal of the Surgeon-General-in-charge in the field. Upon my promising to put ourselves at their command in case of need, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War, sent written instructions to the Principal Medical Officers in Egypt, to afford us as much assistance as it should be in their power to give. In consequence of these instructions, every request I made for lint, tow, brandy, or other articles was at once most liberally and most kindly attended to. We owe these Medical Officers sincere thanks for the help they gave us so readily.

Every bed was soon occupied. Mr. Sieveking went up to the Kasr-el-Ain Hospital as soon as our wards were ready, and chose from among the worst of the wounded the cases that he thought would have a better chance of being saved in our Hospital than in the Arab Hospital; but the numbers to choose from rapidly diminished, for the poor fellows died off in a most deplorable manner within a few days of their arrival. The fellah Arab has a great horror of a Hospital, and all that could reach a village hid themselves there, and many were found with difficulty when searched for later on. Many succumbed to the inevitable exhaustion of the roughly-made journeys: many have been totally unaccounted for. When Mr. Sieveking went round the Arab Hospital to choose his cases, some of them showed great fear at the thought of their removal to our care: and it required a good deal of eloquence to persuade them that they would not be tortured, or otherwise ill-treated. It was the same at first in the Turkish War, especially with the Egyptian troops, till the fame of the English Surgeons and Hospitals spread throughout the land so loudly that every wounded man cried out to be taken "beni Inglizin!" Here, in Egypt also, they were at first surprised and then delighted at the devotion and skill of the surgeon, and the tender kindness of the nurses; and from first to last we never had any trouble with them: all were orderly, tractable, and apparently grateful and affectionate. They bore patiently any little difficulty of interpretation, and submitted cheerfully to their unavoidable sufferings. Happily, out of all our Arabs, we only

lost two, and they were both in a hopeless condition when brought in. A good many left us happy and strong; and, to my mind, it says not a little for the Arab love of home, how invariably they wanted to leave us, begged and implored to be allowed to go, even before they were fit to travel, to return to their poor hard-worked wives, out of a place where they had more comforts and good things such as they love, than they ever had before or will get again. Many a wife walked to Cairo, thirty, forty, even fifty miles to see her husband, and would sit patiently at the roadside hour after hour, till the appointed moment of admittance arrived;-while some poor fellows used to lie sorrowful and weeping that they could get no tidings of the wife or the home, which, perhaps, had been ruined in the miseries of the brief rebellion. Our patients were nearly all fellaheen from the Delta: only a very few had been in the army for any time: and with only two or three exceptions all had been wounded at Tel-el-Kebir. They showed no interest whatever in the fate of Arabi; and not much enthusiasm for the Khedive; the only visitor that roused them into any very warm expression was General Sir A. Allison. With the utmost kindness he stood by every bed, questioning each man as to his share in the battle; the praise he gave to some, assuring them that their battalion had "fought well and bravely," delighted the poor fellows more than anything else that took place in the Hospital; and they often asked did I think "the great onearmed one" would remember them when he went back to England?

Our days were soon very full of work. All our meals were taken together at one table, including all the English and the interpreters. Breakfast was cleared away soon after seven: and then, while the night nurse retired to bed, we dispersed over the house—to the wards, the laundry, the kitchen, &c. Lunch was at half-past eleven, dinner at half-past seven, and the house was darkened and quiet by nine.

It is not easy to describe the labour of starting a completely new thing with entirely new people. Everything, or nearly everything that was needful for the comfort and well-being of our patients, was to be got in Cairo; but ready money, and much more of that than was convenient to my limited means, was necessary, and a yet greater expenditure of time, trouble and thought. When material was obtained it had to be put together, and workmen were hard to find, and harder still to manage when

found.* We had two Copts for interpreters and general assistants, and the five English nurses were all helpful and hearty. An Englishwoman (Mrs. Cheney), who spoke Arabic well, looked after the black boys, who washed the floors every day to keep the wards fresh and sweet. We all worked together with good will and good heart; and except when one Arab cook went mad with hasheesh, and another got drunk with rum, we scarcely ever had a cross word or an angry look. And then to cheer us through the weariness of keeping the endless accounts and looking after the limitless details, the letter-writing and so on—came visits from kind friends, besides those of the Officers who came to see their invalided comrades. There was never a day but that some one, often many, looked in for a pleasant cup of afternoon tea, and left a kindly word behind them. Weary heads and even aching limbs are often cured by words of friendly sympathy and encouragement.

We had not been long in Cairo before we saw how entirely the whole city was without Hospital aid.† A very small French Hospital in a convent at Abbassiyeh was the only accommodation for Europeans, and Abbassiyeh is three miles from Cairo. We found that all Government employés, when sick, were sent down to the German Deaconesses' Hospital at Alexandria: an arrangement which had many inconveniences, besides that of loss of time, and the power of preventing hundreds of serious illnesses by the want of pro-

^{*} We kept a carpenter's shop always going on in the Hospital. Before one of the Festivals the carpenter told me he should not come for four days. I asked why, as the Festival was to last only one day? "Truly so," he replied, "but I and my children will eat so much we shall not be able to get off our beds for three days after." And they were not.

[†] Yet how necessary a better state of medical aid than the existing Arab Hospital is, may be judged from an extract of a letter from Dr. Murison just received: April 2nd, 1883:—

[&]quot;Several soldiers were sent from the Arab Hospital a few days ago to join their battallions after having been there for sixty days. General Sir E. Wood was so shocked by their appearance that he sent them to me for report. There were five of them. Two were suffering from severe hemorrhage from the kidneys. One had the drum of his ear broken, with necrosed bone discharging freely. From one who was set down as a most accomplished malingerer, and recommended to be punished, I took about two and a-half pints of pus; he had hip joint disease. The fifth was probably a malingerer. But these men were set down as fit to work. From my report on these cases General Wood has issued a general order that all sick men are to be sent first to the Victoria Hospital, and if no room there, then sent on to the Arab Hospital."

per attention given at once. Hotels are neither comfortable or healthy for invalids; there is no assistance for persons of the class that occupy furnished apartments; and even for those who have handsome houses of their own no attendance but that of the medical man is possible. How terribly grave is the need of good nursing in conjunction with the aid of the physician we will not here discuss: for happily the need of nursing is now thoroughly acknowledged everywhere.

Day by day as our Hospital steadied into thoroughly good order -day by day as we improved every arrangement in it, perfected our ventilation, and at last got every pipe to draw and tap to turn, -it did seem more and more a pity that so much good work should be lost when its temporary occupation was over; His Highness the Khedive had spent money upon it, and we had given hard work and all else; was all this to be thrown aside when its temporary need was over? True, we were only a "Relief Fund," and the help we had been able to give to the A.M.D. was, so to say, accidental; but everything had been thoroughly well done, as, in case of sickness everything, must be done, however brief the need of it. The money collected for temporary relief was inevitably drawing to a close, and we should simply give up the fine airy house which had proved so eminently suitable for a hospital and take from Cairo all the benefit of our labour which Cairo so much needed. At least I determined to try if we could not turn our temporary relief into an abiding benefit. Fortunately for our plan there was an M.D. with three years' extensive practice among both Europeans and natives at Alexandria, the English attendant at the German Hospital there, and already fluent in Arabic, whom we knew was intending to leave the coast for the interior at Christmas. Here was our opportunity, and one which for the sake of Cairo, we felt ought not to be lost.

H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught had visited the Hospital on the 24th October, and was so much pleased with all he saw, that, with the appreciative sympathy for which our Royal Family are so remarkable, he at once said, "But this good work must not come to an end! I do hope you will make it permanent; you must make it permanent." And when I took leave of His Royal Highness he repeated this hope and kindly said he would be Patron of the Hospital if the Khedive approved of it. His Highness the Khedive did more than approve: he earnestly begged us to get it so arranged.

But the difficulties were great. Hospitals never can be self-

supporting, and how few that are in health make provision for the day of sickness? on the contrary, people seem to think sickness a providentially-given excuse to account for things that go wrong. The long story of our hopes and disappointments cannot be told here in detail. Every one agreed how great was the need, how immense would be the benefit of an European Hospital for all nations in Cairo; but where were the means whereby to do it? The Egyptian Treasury was at its lowest; the money set apart for the medical department of the Government was, no doubt, sadly misused in many cases:—too much to some, too little to others, —but the repairs of old abuses take time to make, and our Relief Fund could not go on till the Egyptian Government was reformed. Moreover, no one could expect the Government of Egypt to set up a purely English Hospital.

Before the year was out, however, we had proof that when a good thing ought to be done, there are always good men who get it done. Recognizing the great value of a Hospital for all Cairo, and the advantage to the public offices of the diminution of sickleaves,* Sir Auckland Colvin recommended the Egyptian Government to grant a subscription of £ stg. 2,000 to the Hospital for the present year, to be continued annually should the advantage of its establishment be proved. All difficulty, at least, all impossibility was now at an end. Early in December we had seen ourselves at the end of our money, while many cases were in the house whose removal would not be possible for another month, and other cases of British officers were coming in. For more than a month I had been seeking for aid from the Egyptian Government, and dreading that want of funds would compel us to close while these negotiations were pending. Had we done so, of course the Hospital would never have re-opened. From this disaster we were rescued by the kindness of a friend, Mr. Ralph Lopes, who wished that the same care and skill which had been given to his sont-alas! in vain-should be available for all others who desired to profit by it; and he himself at once collected a goodly sum, the news of which reached us in the middle of December; the relief to our anxiety was immense.

^{*} By the calculations which had then been lately made of the sick-leave granted to employés in the Government offices of Cairo, it was ascertained that, if rolled out, they would amount to twelve years!

[†] Captain Henry Lopes, Highland Light Infantry; died of enteric fever and sunstroke, 10th of December.

We had enough now not only to keep open until the permanent Hospital should be, as we hoped, established, but we trusted we should have sufficient funds to complete the work of furnishing the house up to its future needs. Private rooms for patients of the richer classes were imperatively necessary; we trusted that the charges paid for these, and the small fees paid by consulting outpatients, aided by the subscriptions of residents in Cairo, would bring enough in addition to the Government subvention, to keep up the Hospital modestly but efficiently. We proposed—

That the Hospital should be preserved in perpetual remembrance of the assistance brought to Egypt by the English in her hour of need.

That the Hospital should be utilised-

 For those Egyptians who desire a better treatment than they can obtain at an ordinary native Hospital.

2. For those English Officers who prefer a civil to a military Hospital.

3. For the European employés of the Government for whom the Arab Hospital is not suitable.

4. For the Officers and Privates of the Egyptian Army and of the Gendarmerie.

5. For the training of Copt or Egyptian-European women as Nurses.

The Government subvention commenced from the 1st of January, 1883, and a formal Committee was held in it on the 8th. Hitherto the hospital had had no name, but under the new birth of a permanent establishment it was necessary to give it a title. It was suggested to call it "the St. John's Hospital" in allusion to the Refugee Relief Fund which had brought us to Egypt, and which was initiated by the St. John's Ambulance Association; while we ourselves wished it to be called "the Connaught," after the first friend who had expressed a hope of its permanent success. But when these names were mentioned to the Khedive, his Highness promptly replied, "My people do not yet have that sound in their ears; but there is 'not a fellah now who does not know the name of the Queen of England and the meaning of it; I wish it to be called 'THE VICTORIA HOSPITAL,' and I will be its Patron." Of course we gladly obeyed: and the name was at once painted on the four sides of the house both in English and Arabic.

We spent the next three weeks in making our last improvements in the wards: in re-cementing the roof which the Christmas rains had proved to be much worn out: in furnishing the rooms for private or paying patients as nicely as possible; and in arranging offices for out-patients and dispensing. Dr. Sieveking was compelled to delay leaving Cairo till Dr. Murison could finish his arrangements in Alexandria, and could take up the work for good and all. The grief of the soldiers at losing their doctor was quite touching; some of them had become much attached to him, and were inconsolable even to tears, at his going away. One said to me: "my bones will splinter now, but what other hands can take them out as his have done?" another said "how can I walk if he does not stay to see my first step?" and several kept assuring me "We shall think of him so often when we are in Heaven!"

On taking leave of the Khedive, his Highness expressed his warm thanks to Mr. Sieveking for his unwearied labour in administering the hospital and attending to these poor fellows, maimed in the brief service they had been compelled to give to Arabi the rebel; and in the kindest manner the Khedive presented him with the fourth class of the Mejidieh as a "personal souvenir" from himself.

It was with the keenest regret that we tore ourselves away, on the 27th of January, from the place we had created with so much labour and delight; but we were much worn in health, and we delayed only to see the work fully and steadily settled. Sad, indeed, were our hearts at leaving: but they were yet fuller of gratitude unforgettable for all the immense kindness, sympathy and heartily-given help that we had received from the Earl of Dufferin, Sir Edward Malet, Sir Auckland Colvin, Mr. Alonzo Money, Colonel Money, Mr. Gerald Fitz-Gerald, Sir Archibald Alison, Dean Butcher, and lastly, but by no means the least helpful, Mr. Moberly Bell. To their Excellencies Riaz Pacha, Minister of the Interior, and his successor Ismaïl Pacha Eyoub, and to Salem Pasha, who from the first took an active part in its formation, and was ever at hand to forward our wishes, we owe the warmest thanks. It is impossible to say who helped us most, but each gave of his best, and each made a link in the chain without the aid of which we could never have accomplished the establishment of the Victoria Hospital.

There is nothing more to be told, but that her Majesty graciously summoned me to the palace shortly after our return to England, that she might personally express her interest in the Hospital in which she is joint patroness with H.H. the Khedive, and her good wishes for its future well being. Her Majesty has since presented to it her own portrait and those of H.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

We trust that those who have visited Egypt for pleasure or for health,—those who have seen sickness and death in a far away land,—those who care to testify their interest in beneficent works in the country so important to England,—and those who desire to assist in the development of the Arabs, and especially in the training of native women,—will now and then, once a year, send a little aid towards the support of the Victoria Hospital, Cairo.

AN ACCOUNT OF LADY STRANGFORD'S HOSPITAL AT CAIRO, FOR EGYPTIANS AND ENGLISH.

A Letter published in the 'British Medical Journal,' Nov. 18, 1882. WRITTEN BY MR. HERBERT SIEVEKING, M.R.C.S.Eng.

As a large number of your readers are interested in the St. John's Ambulance Association, I think some account of the work being done here, under the admirable guidance of Lady Strangford, by the surgical and nursing staff sent out by that society, may be not unwelcome.

It was originally intended that a hospital should be established at Alexandria; but on arrival there, on September 20th, it was found that the few wounded who had arrived (the majority having vanished no one knew whither) were being well tended at the Deaconesses and Greek Hospitals, and that there would be little work for us in that quarter. It was therefore decided at once to proceed to Cairo, where there was no European hospital, especially as the battle of Tel-el-Kebir had taken place seven days previously, and the wounded were arriving daily. Whilst at Alexandria, the

Khedive gave Lady Strangford permission to use Arabi's late residence at Cairo—His Highness kindly undertaking to pay for all necessary repairs; it has luckily proved suitable in every way for hospital purposes.

We found the house entirely empty, except for the presence of Arabi's favourite white cat, and in a most dirty condition. Workmen were immediately put in to make the place habitable as soon as possible, the whole building being whitewashed inside and out, laundry built, cesspools cleaned, yard paved, etc.; and on October 15th, we had four sick officers, one correspondent, and twenty wounded Arabs, most of the latter very severe cases.

Whilst the hospital was being got ready, our nurses were not idle, three of them being engaged with sick officers at the different hotels-two of the cases being most serious (acute dysentery and typhoid), and rapidly going down hill for want of the constant attention which a skilled nurse alone can give. I am glad to say, however, that they improved from the moment the nurses went to them. The value of good nursing could not have been more strikingly demonstrated. The applications for nurses which Lady Strangford has received have been numerous; and the Army-Medical Department cannot possibly realise the valuable aid it loses in not employing a large staff to attend its sick and wounded. Sir A. Alison, the present Commander-in-Chief, fully recognises the importance of such assistance, as he gave orders for the sick officers' wards in the new hospital at Abbassiyeh to be reduced to a smaller number than had been arranged as Lady Strangford's hospital was also open for their reception—an official recognition of our hospital which we highly appreciate.

Arabi's house stands quite alone in a well-to-do and open part of the town, having a broad road on each side. The building consists of two blocks, joined by a narrow wing and balcony on the south side. Between the two is a garden, fifty feet by forty, and at the north-east corner is a yard, about half as large, at one end of which the laundry is situated, all washing being done on the premises by native women. In the west wing, on the ground floor, there are three wards, large entrance hall, kitchen, etc. Above, on the first floor, are rooms for most of the staff. The officers' rooms are on the first floor in the east block (which is much larger than the other), occupying the whole of the north side. On the same floor are Arabs, who, however, are quite separate from the English. On the ground floor of the same block are six rooms (three being used

for wards, large entrance hall, bath room, kitchen for Arabs, etc. On each floor there are, besides several smaller rooms used for stores, pharmacy, ophthalmic cases, etc. All the closets in the centre of the building have been nailed up, those on the south side, close to the street, alone being used, a window opening directly on to the street from each. Large ventilating pipes, ten inches in diameter, have been run up outside each block from the cesspool beneath to several feet above the roof, to carry off as much foul air as possible. Such is the salubrity of the climate that, in spite of the absence of artificial drainage, the place remains remarkably free from smells, and the sick and wounded do well under circumstances which in England would be deemed fatal to success. doors and windows remain open day and night. The drinking water is filtered in the native "zeers," large oval jars, made of Nile mud—the spongy iron-filters which we brought out being entirely useless for cleansing muddy Nile water. The native cane bedsteads, "sireers," costing about two francs apiece, are most useful for fractured thighs. They stand about eighteen inches high, and are formed of vertical and horizontal canes, the former passing through the latter, and making a rectangular lattice-work, with apertures about five inches by three. They are most light, airy, and strong. The floor of the bed is made of the same material, and can stand any weight. The surgeon-general, after seeing them in use at our Hospital, ordered four hundred for the military hospital, as the sick English soldiers, one month after the cessation of hostilities, were lying on the floors, in which unenviable position many of them are still to be seen.

The Egyptian Government is most particular in assuring itself that those wishing to practice here are duly qualified; the council would not even accept my English registration certificate as a guarantee, but requested me to send for my diploma as soon as possible. Would that the home Government were equally anxious in the same direction. His Highness the Khedive has been taking the greatest interest in the hospital, sending H. E. Salem Pasha, his chief physician, three or four times a week to keep him informed of all that takes place. To-day, November 1st, he came himself, having previously requested that no special preparations should be made, as he wished to see the hospital in its every-day dress. He went most minutely into everything, and expressed himself delighted with all he saw. He is going to send his children in a few days. Salem Pasha, whose large-minded desire for improvement

is worthy of all praise, has done all in his power to make the way smooth for us, and is most anxious that the hospital should succeed, and become a permanent institution. He would gladly do much to reform the existing Arab hospitals here and at Alexandria, but circumstances are, at present, too powerful for him. He expressed himself as truly heart-broken at the way the new building at the latter place is being conducted. It is supported by Government at a cost of £7000 a year, most of which goes into the pockets of a lot of useless officials; but he is quite powerless to remove them, as each is supported by some one of influence. The comparatively small number of wounded who have arrived here, is due entirely to the fear the natives naturally entertain of the treatment, medical and general, at the native establishments. An Arab's dread of such places was most strikingly shown here the other day. One man of the first twenty we received from the Arab hospital had a compound fracture of both bones of the left leg in upper third, with a large gangrenous wound, and was altogether in a hopeless condition, refusing to have the limbs removed, and being, from his condition, injurious to the other patients. We sent for the vehicle to have him conveyed back to the Arab's hospital. After he had been put in, and found he was really to go, his cries became piteous, and he besought me to take off both his legs rather than send him back. Under the circumstances, the vehicle had to return empty.

All our native patients are fairly astonished at the manner they have been received, and thoroughly appreciate it. There could be no greater boon conferred on the Egyptians than that a few good English hospitals should arise in different parts of the country. Happily there is every prospect of this one being established on a firm footing, and being carried on by most able English medical men. The names of Dr. Grant Bey and Dr. A. Murison of Alexandria (who is coming to settle here), are a sufficient guarantee for the future good management of the hospital. They have both worked with and for us in the heartiest manner. To Surgeon Harrison of the Grenadier Guards, we are also much indebted. Funds are still needed for carrying on the present work, but before Lady Strangford leaves, she hopes to have made such arrangements as to insure the hospital in a great measure being supported by native subscriptions. His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who went over the hospital the other day, expressed a spontaneous desire to be its English patron. There is every prospect of the influence of the work done here extending far beyond the hospital walls. Already in the Arabic Journal, *El Wattan*, (which has a very large circulation amongst all classes of natives) articles have appeared eulogising the nursing system, and calling on the Egyptian ladies to follow such an excellent example. Dr. Grant Bey, at a large meeting of the Arab hospital staff, in a stirring address (which will be translated and published in the native Arabic journal, by H. E. Salem Pasha) brought the matter prominently before the Egyptian medical men. There is every reason for believing that the present time is fully ripe for such a movement receiving serious consideration from, and being supported by the Egyptian public.

Social and domestic conditions have much changed of late years. As an example, I may say that Salem Pasha is frequently called to visit the harems professionally, a thing unheard of a very few years since. The women of Egypt are daily becoming less hampered by burdensome restrictions. Old eastern customs are slowly but surely giving way before western influences; and English nurses continuing their work amongst the natives would have an incalculable power for good, such as could be obtained in no other way.

Three officers and two correspondents have already left the hospital convalescent. At present, it contains four officers (two down with typhoid and two convalescent from same), one soldier-servant (typhoid), two Cyprus muleteers (purulent ophthalmia), twenty-eight Arabs (all wounded soldiers).

The Arabs came to us in a most pitiable condition from the Arab Hospital; broken legs and shattered joints were without splints, amputations looking like the cut ends of a German sausage; one patient was half-starved, and another eaten up with pediculi. More wounded will shortly be taken in.

As soon as Dr. Murison arrives, an out-patient department will be formed, and an endeavour made to stimulate the authorities to organise a search expedition for all those who yet remain wounded in the surrounding villages, there being large numbers unaccounted for. There is every prospect of a search even now saving many lives, and relieving much misery, as the Arabs are wonderfully hardy, and bear privations in a truly marvellous manner.

THE VICTORIA HOSPITAL, CAIRO.

JANUARY 22, 1883.

The above title (chosen by the Khedive) is that by which the first European Hospital in Cairo, founded by the unwearied efforts of Viscountess Strangford is in future to be known. The Egyptian Government has decided to give a grant for one year of two thousand pounds, to be continued if the, not very onerous, conditions accompanying it are satisfactorily fulfilled. The chief of these are, that an average monthly minimum of in and out-patients be treated; that a certain number of Arab students be allowed to attend at the hospital, and that all accounts shall be open to the inspection of the Government. As the £2,000 grant will not be sufficient alone, the hospital will contribute to its own maintenance by patient's fees. Single rooms will be reserved for first class patients, i.e., those able to pay all their expenses; other in-patients will be charged at the rate of five and two francs daily, a fair proportion of beds being reserved for the poor. The out-patients (i.e. all those able to afford it) will be charged one piastre (2½d.) a visit. Several fresh wards have lately been added, by making windows in the "hareem," part of the house and the building can now accommodate comfortably seventy patients. The committee, composed of the first English residents, whom I am glad to say have already rendered great assistance, with Sir Edward Malet as president, held its first meeting on the 8th of January, and if any proof were necessary of the need for such an institution as Lady Strangford's work supplies, it might be found in the general good wishes and valuable help which have come from all quarters, English and native. The sick leaves, at the present moment, of the government employes reach an incredible number of years; Europeans in case of sickness, have to be sent all the way to Alexandria to the Deaconesses' Hospital, and the native employés can only be got to enter the Arab Hospital here in the company of the policeman. I have paid many visits to the latter establishment, and I must say I cannot wonder at their aversion. I saw lately an operation for labial elephantiasis. It lasted exactly one hour, and must have been very painful as the skin incisions were

large. No chloroform was given, the woman being held down by students crowding on all sides; towards the end one of the surgeons suggested an anæsthetic, which excited intense scorn on the mind of the operator, who proceeded to push in the needles with points like pin heads, now and then resting himself, the better to maintain an animated discussion as to the lady's subsequent matrimonial prospects We have one man at present in the hospital whose thigh was removed at the upper third in the same way. There are certain wards set apart for sick prisoners, small boys charged with slight offences, are mixed up with murderers and accomplished criminals, but all are treated alike in the matter of iron anklets and chains, which have to be worn, even in bed, no matter how sick or juvenile the sufferer may be. The ill-conduct and lack of improvement in these establishments is quite inexcusable, as many of the chief native medical men have studied at Paris, Vienna, &c., and have at least a knowledge of better things.

Dr. A. Murison (who has for some years had extensive practice at Alexandria) has undertaken the duties of Resident Medical Officer, and on Lady Strangford's departure two experienced nurses, and an Englishwoman to superintend the laundry, will be left to assist him. Arrangements have also been made for two Coptic women to reside in the hospital to learn the art of nursing, and if they are as apt and useful as the Arab ward-boys have been in adapting themselves to our requirements, they will soon become excellent nurses. The native wounded have proved very tractable and given no trouble whatever. They all belong to the "fellaheen." For adults, they are the most simple, childish, superstitious people imaginable. Several objected much to the splints, but all in the end conquered their fears, with the exception of two, for whom a foot weight for fractured thigh, and a short backsplint had peculiar terrors. "Effreets" (spirits) were believed to be running up and down their legs as long as they wore the obnoxious articles, and it was absolutely necessary at last to give in and take them off. The thigh case was a severe compound comminuted fracture in the middle-third, several pieces of bone having to be removed; at the present time (January 1) there is good union with exactly one and one-third inches shortening. Two other compound fractures of the thigh (one undoubtedly oblique) have left the hospital, the one with exactly two centimetres shortening, the second, with rather less. I cannot claim any

credit for these last two cases, as there was considerable union before they came under my care, but I quote them to show the remarkable kindness of nature as in neither case was extension of any sort employed.

Several of the wounds for days after admission exuded a tenacious gelatine-like substance, and in one or two cases maggots appeared before it was entirely got rid of. The natives having once made up their minds, take chloroform well; I have never seen any struggling or sickness, even after prolonged inhalation, and several times after a first dose they have held the lint over their own faces for fear they should not get enough. We have endeavoured to feed them exactly as they live at home, both as to time and kind of food. The following is the *menu* for one day: 6 a.m., coffee and native bread; 9 a.m., rice, milk and eggs; noon, meat and vegetables; 4 p.m., coffee and fruit; 7 p.m., meat and maccaroni.

Each has had ten cigarettes served out daily, and as much more as his friends liked to bring him. I cannot help thinking that the constant smoking, night and day has assisted greatly in keeping the hospital healthy, none of the staff having suffered in any way, and the wounded having done well in spite of the muchabused drainage of Cairo. All the closets are, however, well ventilated on to the road and roof, and none in the centre of the building are in use. At first I tried to keep the windows wide open at night, but soon found that a little night air went a long way to produce marked rises of temperature in the Arab constitutions, and had to allow a very limited amount of ventilation in consequence. The Arabs invariably sleep with their heads tucked tightly in a blanket, and sometimes in two or three. I calculate that at least three-fourths of the wounds were in the lower extremities, and the number of amputations below the knee has been quite extraordinary.

A great many of the wounded were quite old men. I found on the death of one old fellow his discharge, dated ten years back, which he had carefully preserved round his waist ever since. We have had two cases of perforation of the ilium; one has done remarkably well. The bullet entered midway between the top of the left trochanter and the crest of the ilium. Under chloroform, I enlarged the wound, took away a piece of bone rather larger than a shilling, covering up an aperture of the same size. On passing the finger into the pelvis, I was able to sweep it round freely in

all directions as far as it would go, without meeting any obstruction, but was not able to find the bullet, which the patient said "had jumped out again." The man has never had any abdominal trouble, and is now able to walk well. In the second case the perforation (a small horizontal one), occurred half an inch below the right crest; the patient has been at times very bad. I should have made an opening in the right groin (where there is a firm lump, as if the shell splinter had passed down between the bone and iliacus muscle, tearing up the periosteum, and become surrounded with ossific deposit), but he was so weak that he nearly succumbed to the chloroform, and the attempt had to be abandoned. With weak injections of iodine the discharge has very much decreased, and the patient is just able to toddle about a little. In this case there has been a certain amount of tenesmus from time to time.

Colonel Duncan, R.A., who initiated the mission, and who has done so much hard work in the past five months to ensure its success, has arrived here to take command of the Egyptian Artillery; as a member of the Committee, he will continue to take an active interest in the undertaking, and has already begun to use it by sending in one of his men. It is to be hoped that although the hospital is well launched, home interest in it (especially on the part of members of the St. John's Ambulance Society), will not entirely cease. I have only to add that all first-class patients will be attended by any medical man they may choose, whether civil, military, or native.

HERBERT SIEVEKING, M.R.C.S.

FOUNDATION RULES

THE VICTORIA HOSPITAL, CAIRO.

- 1. The hospital shall be governed by a Committee Board composed of the Resident Medical Officer, the two consulting Physicians, and four non-professional members.
- 2. The president of the Medical Council shall always be a member of this committee in right of his position.
- 3. A meeting of the committee will take place every three months, at which five out of the ten members must attend, for the purpose of deciding the affairs of the Hospital, and examining the accounts of the Medical Officer.
- 4. The Resident Medical Officer shall have the entire control of the hospital in the intervals between the meeting of the committee, and it shall be in his power to call extra meetings if necessary.
- 5. In case of the withdrawal of any member of the committee, the other members shall elect a member to fill his place.
- 6. The Hospital in the condition in which it is left by Viscountess Strangford, with all the furniture, instruments, medicines, &c., contained in it, will be the property of the committee, and will be renewed and supplemented with their approval.
- 7. The Resident Medical Officer shall always be an Englishman, and hold English qualifications.
- 8. The committee may include non-residents as Honorary Members of the same.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL, CAIRO.

RULES.

- 1. No patient who applies for admission to Hospital will be refused, as long as a bed is available and provided his case is a suitable one for hospital treatment.
- 2. Patients suffering from small-pox, scarlet fever, measles, typhus fever, or whooping-cough, cannot be admitted to the Hospital.
- 3. The beds in the Hospital are divided into four classes, of which

12 will be 1st class
12 ,, ,, 2nd class
11 ,, ,, 3rd class
30 ,, ,, 4th class

of these, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd will be paying beds, the 4th gratis. The charges in the:

1st class will be £1 per day 2nd class " " 8/ " 3rd class " " 4/ "

Of the charges in the 1st and 2nd class, one third will be for medical attendance and the rest for the Hospital. The charges in the 3rd class will be entirely for the Hospital.

If either of the consulting physicians or the English Military Surgeons express a wish to attend a patient without fee, only such proportion of the charges would be demanded from that patient as would belong to the Hospital under the forgoing rule.

4. A certain number of beds will be placed at the disposal of the consulting physicians and the English Military Surgeons, viz:—

Dr. SALEM PACHA 2—1st class 2—2nd class Dr. GRANT BEY 2- 1st class

2- 2nd class

English Military Surgeons 4—1st class

Discretion is given to the Resident Surgeon to sanction any temporary re-arrangement of beds between the outside medical men, or between them and himself.

- 5. One or two rooms of 4th class beds will be set aside for women suffering from contagious diseases.
- 6. Any person coming into the 1st or 2nd class expressly for an operation, will have to make his own arrangements with the operating surgeon for the amount of fee.

CAIRO, 1883.

THE EGYPTIAN RELIEF FUND.

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I hereby certify that I have audited the above accounts and have found same correct, ERNEST I. HUSEY, Chartered Accountant.

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EGYPTIAN RELIEF FUND, EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPT ACCOUNT. DER RAI PH R LOPES. ESO.

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		1		Audited and found correct, ERNEST I. HUSEY, Chartered Accountant.

The Committee are anxious that it should be clearly understood that the amount received by Mr. Lopes does not represent the total result of his efforts on behalf of the Fund, as a great portion of the money received by the Committee in and after December, was the result of his appeal of that date.

EGYPTIAN RELIEF FUND, EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPT ACCOUNT.

9	undermentioned Disbursements, viz.:— Remittances to Lady Strangford 1173	Postages 31	132	H. Sieveking, Esq., Salary 74	es of Nurses, &c., home 48	Auditor's fee Iz	Carriage of Goods	Beds, Filters, &c	Medical Stores, Instruments, &C 12 1 Stationery and Printing and Incidentals 24			£2165 4
1883.	May 30.—By the undermentioned Disbursements, viz.:— Remittances to Lady Strangford	Postages Telegrams	Stores	H. Sieveking, Esq.	Travelling Expense	Auditor's fee Travelling of Lady	Carriage of Goods Advertising and Cle	Beds, Filters, &c.	Medical Stores, Instruments, &C. Stationery and Printing and Incide	Cost of Remittances	" By Balance in Bank	
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DOUGLAS H. GORDON, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct, ERNEST I. HUSEY, Chartered Accountant, 6, Hart Street, Mark Lane.

Letter from HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, K.G.

WINDSOR CASTLE, February 7th, 1883.

DEAR LADY STRANGFORD,

Let me thank you many times for your very kind letter of the 23rd ult. from Cairo. I rejoice to think that your untiring efforts in founding a thoroughly good Hospital at Cairo, have been crowned with the success they deserve. You may well feel proud not only of the good you have already done, but also of the good you have every reason to hope may continue. I am so pleased to think that the Khedive and all the leading men at Cairo have taken an interest in the "Victoria Hospital"; and I hope it will ever remain a lasting memento of the success of British arms in Egypt, and of the devotion to charity of English ladies and English doctors.

I mentioned your great wish as well as that of the Khedive's, that the Queen should become a Patroness of the Hospital, and she has agreed to do so, and has authorized me to write to you to that effect. The Duchess is delighted to give her name as Patroness, and is very grateful to you for asking her to be associated with so good a work.

Hoping you have returned to England in good health, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR.

Letter from His Excellency The Earl of Dufferin, K.P., Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

CAIRO, December 28th, 1882.

DEAR LADY STRANGFORD,

I cannot allow you to quit Egypt without placing on record, as Her Majesty's Ambassador, my very great sense of the services you have rendered to our own sick officers and men, and to our wounded Arab prisoners, by the establishment of your Cairo Hospital. All the Military authorities here are loud in your praises, and I understand that His Highness the Khedive and the members of his Government fully appreciate its usefulness. This indeed is proved by the alacrity with which they have determined to continue it as a permanent institution. Not only will it in this way serve as a model of what an hospital should be, but it will be of great practical utility to our troops, both officers and men, as long as the Army of Occupation remains in Egypt.

Comprehending as I do, all the difficulties with which you had to contend on your first arrival, and having witnessed the splendid success of your efforts, I am all the better able to pay this tribute to your energy, sound judgment, and practical powers of organization. Your mission to Egypt will not be the least honourable chapter in your life of self-sacrifice and devotion to the good of others.

Believe me, dear Lady Strangford, Yours sincerely,

DUFFERIN.

WAR OFFICE,

January 12th, 1883.

SIR,—Adverting to your letter of the 29th November last, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, in confirmation of the telegram sent to you on the 9th inst., that he approves of the grant of a sum of £170 to the Viscountess Strangford, in recognition of the services which have been afforded to the sick and wounded officers at the hospital established by her at Cairo.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

THOMAS CAVE.

The General Officer commanding
Her Britannic Majesty's Forces in Egypt.

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