trained; whilst young, orderlies, often quite inexperienced, take their turn in attending to critical cases.

Christmas came and went, and another drew near before the long talk-of—den expedition started up the Nile.

Hope and Constance had had months of hard work; they had seen many a life, full of promise for the future, taken away often in the very spring-time of youth. There was much to sadden them, but there was also the pleasure of knowing that they had been a real comfort to many who were glad to have had a woman's care and sympathy when their own mothers were so far away.

Sister Horniblow had been obliged to go home, having had another sharp attack of fever, and Sister Tuke had taken her place. She was not nearly such a favourite, and was much more rough-and-ready though really kind-hearted in her way, but lacked the gentle manners and the pleasant capable ways which always won for Sister Horniblow such ready sympathy. Several regiments had left Cairo, but had been replaced by others which gradually moved on, and as all the men were anxious to go to the front with their regiments, none came sick who could possibly keep out of hospital, and whilst the numbers grew less many remained out till it was too late for anything to be done for them. One afternoon

when Hope and Constance had been out together buying presents in the bazaars to send home as Christmas gifts, and enjoying the bargaining they had had with the sellers, they were met on their return by Sister Tuke, who informed them that orders had come for them both to go further up the Nile. "No place is mentioned," she said, "you will know that later on. You are to be ready to start in two or three days."

"Who could ever have dreamed of such good fortune as getting our orders together like this," said Hope as they went to their room at night."

"No, I can hardly believe it," replied Constance. "I feel all eagerness to be gone. I wonder where we shall go, and how long we shall stay." They talked on till it was quite late, and the next few days all their spare time was occupied with preparations for their departure. Sister Tuke having been abroad before, knew what they would be likely to want, and helped them in every way to get what was necessary. Some might think that to travel hundreds of miles up the Nile in these disturbed times, to care for the sick day after day through great heat and many discomforts, would be a somewhat formidable undertaking; but to Hope and Constance little could seem formidable so long as they might go together: what are difficulties, cares and worries when shared with one who is in sympathy with all we do? Constance had told Hope all about her friend at Saint Marguerite's and their resolve at least to aim high. She often felt indeed how sadly she had failed, though she had the firmest of her purpose, and now Hope and she were striving together. The last night of their stay in Cairo they sat by side by side on their broad window-ledge, looking over the great city lying at their feet, planning together for the future, and talking over the past, they realised perhaps more clearly than they had ever done before the joy which had come into their lives in their love for each other.

"I suppose," said Hope, "love of necessity fills up as they sat side by side on their broad window-ledge, looking over the great city lying at their feet, planning together for the future, and talking over the past, they realised perhaps more clearly than they had ever done before the joy which had come into their lives in their love for each other.

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specimen of the work executed on the Levant islands. It is far more delicate than the first piece, is worked upon an extremely fine white linen background with fine silks and thin gold thread. The design in itself is so artistic that if enlarged it will not lose its beauty; and for an enlargement it is recommended either for a mantel or shelf border, for the centre strip of a dinner table decoration, for a chair back, or a work-bag.

The colours used are black for the little pattern lines, red for the darker and uppermost leaves of the flowers, and shaded blues and greens (of light ties) for the under-leaves of the flowers. The gold thread fills in the centres and works the tiny lines that edge all the flowers. The two conventional shaped leaves attached to the stems of each flower are worked indifferently in red, blue, green and gold. The stitch in the original is the true Oriental stitch, both upper and under-side being alike, but for the reproduction satin-stitch is used for the flowers, and crewel or stem-stitch for the connecting lines.

From another island on the Levant comes the work shown in Fig. 3, and known as Lefkara or Cyprus embroidery. This is of entirely native manufacture, the strong cotton material on which it is worked being made in the looms found in most Cyprus village homes, and the white embroidery and drawn work, and the knotted fringes all worked in the villages. The present revival of white embroidery gives a special value to this native work, which is now for the first time engraved for English workers, and as this embroidery is not only unique of its kind but beautifully executed, it demands a special recognition.

The island of Cyprus has been possessed by so many nations that who was really its colonisers ages of antiquity. Kings of Egypt conquered it and fled to it as a refuge; after them the Phoenicians have left many signs of their occupation; then the Romans converted it into a summer resort and an island dedicated to the votaries of Venus. They were expelled by the Greeks and the conquerors of the East. In the time of our Richard the First it was conquered and occupied by the English, and many ruins of castles and cathedrals of this date still remain and attest the importance the place assumed and the wealth expended to retain it. As long as the Wars of the Crusades continued, this island, the nearest land to Syria, was the place where the French and the English could assemble and concentrate their forces before they descended upon the Holy Land; but as soon as efforts to wrest the Holy Sepulchre from the infidel ceased, the island was left to become the prey of many nations, and finally only during many years by the Sultan of Turkey, and only became again a British colony through a treaty of a late date. These various occupations of hostile nations have left their traces on the inhabitants, and the lower class are a mixture of Arab, Greek, and Levantines, while the upper are chiefly Turks or drawn from the neighbouring coasts, and there is no actual national type or national work except this embroidery. The Lefkara work is done in the island and is of distinctly Greek origin. It resembles in a marked degree the first Greek and Italian or Reticella laces, which are all formed by making a design out of the woven material itself by the manipulation of the warp and woof. By the withdrawing of a fixed number of threads and the overcasting together of others, open spaces were made that were surrounded and protected from fraying, and these open spaces were so arranged that they left flat pieces of material as thick designs, and themselves formed the lighter parts of the design or the open ground on which the heavy pattern rested. This peculiarity is seen in Lefkara work. In many parts of it the old Greek lace designs are accurately reproduced, but in others the thick white embroidery with cotton, and the buttonhole and satin-stitches more associated with embroidery than lace work appears. The designs are not very varied; they have evidently been blindly copied by mother and daughter for many generations, and no thought of change has penetrated to this Eastern nation, which, like all Oriental nations, abhors activity for mind or body. The only difference in the work is its fineness or coarseness, some villages working it upon very fine cotton foundations, others upon thick cottons. It is sold in long lengths, and is about half a yard in width of needlework, and it forms splendid sideboard cloths, bed-hangings, quilts, chair-backs, and sofa-backs. The fringe which forms the invariable finish is made from the unravelled threads knotted with tiny knots for a considerable length, and then allowed to hang down as left off with rather larger knots made as at the extreme end. Being all executed with white cotton the work washes and wears for many years.

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FIG. 3.—LEFKARA OR CYPRUS WORK.