

The state of the British Hospitals at Balaklava and Scutaria has attracted much attention, and was, doubtless, very unsatisfactory and discreditable for some time. But many persons who exposed the irregularities and foul condition of these establishments, wrote their criticisms on a mere comparison of those temporary hospitals with the regular long established hospitals of Paris and London, without taking into consideration the peculiar difficulties to which they were exposed, and the incessant arrivals of sick and wounded with which the officers and servants were overwhelmed. And there were other disadvantages not generally known. The French, it appears, had the first choice of the buildings intended for hospitals, and, whilst the British waited for permission from the Turkish government, our prompter allies took possession of the best at once without leave, as they had done forty or fifty years before in other countries. The rejected buildings made very indifferent English hospitals, and as the Turks are a filthy people, notwithstanding their baths, great repairs and repeated purifications were necessary, which required time, and this could be ill afforded amidst the daily arrival of hundreds of dying patients.

Never was more severe work performed by medical men, or greater zeal and devotedness shown than during the Turkish expedition, and I may add, never was more successful surgical practice seen than after the battles of Alma and Inkerman. I have it from good authority that eight-tenths of the men recovered on whom capital operations had been performed, a proportion, I believe, much above the result of London or Parisian hospital practice. And the devoted surgeons suffered according to their unremitting exertions. In one month at Sentari eight died. I have received two letters from medical friends of mine at that station, one of which says,—“We are abused in the London papers but I don't regard it. I never worked so hard, nor witnessed such general devotedness to the sick. For the last four days and nights my labor has been incessant, and I have not left the hospital even to take a meal.”

Yet these meritorious gentlemen have been calumniated almost incessantly in the newspapers. The agents and correspondents of the London journals, without definite or full information on military and medical matters, and possessing little judgment to use it, if well informed on such subjects, have painted every thing British connected with the Eastern expedition in the most dismal colors, pandering to a vile propensity in the public mind to find fault. Nor have they been content with exaggeration, but to my certain knowledge have violated truth, and in several instances. Even a very worthy man, I believe, S. G. O., of the *Times*, or the Rev. Mr. Osborne, has done this, carried away, doubtless, by the impulse of the circle around him. When giving his evidence