

inspired by love with zeal" would do the work so much better than Nurses who find Infirmery work means "dulness of life and the absence of professional prizes."

Mr. Holland, no doubt, is a devout Catholic, but his article betrays how little he knows of the Nursing question. We would recommend him to read the reports of the *British Medical Journal* Commissioner as to the condition of Workhouse Infirmaries in Ireland, where the care of the sick is frequently in the hands of religious Sisters. It has always been shown that Nursing by religious Sisterhoods has never reached the scientific perfection of that done by lay Nurses, and Mr. Holland has not been able to bring forward one practical argument in favour of the re-introduction of a plan which would be very much against the spirit of the times. His keynote is that such service would be "much cheaper and of infinitely better quality than if they were bought in the open market." Translated shortly, the whole article is in favour of taking away the means of livelihood of the whole body of Nurses, and giving over our Infirmaries to Nuns and Sisters. He professes to argue on "strictly commercial principles," but it seems to us the proposition is anything but business-like. At present Nurses are a self-supporting body of women. "Sisters" are not, for they take no payment. But somebody has to support and pay for the Sisterhoods, and for maintenance and keep. So where, eventually, does the economy come in? Mr. Holland would do well to study Nursing and its ethics before he writes articles on it, for it needs an expert to properly deal with such a subject.

THE following sketch of the life of Mary Louisa Fairweather—who was recently murdered in Mashonaland during her career as a Nurse—appears in *Speedwell*, the quarterly paper of the Guild of St. Veronica, of which she was a member:—

"Nurse Fairweather was accepted as a Probationer in the York Home for Nurses in July, 1891. She was then 24 years of age, having been born and brought up in York. She was sent to the Crumpsall Workhouse Infirmery, Manchester, for training, and returned to the York Home in August, 1893. Until February, 1896, she worked as one of the Staff of the Home, and then accepted an engagement with Mrs. Norton, a lady whom she had attended in her illness, to go out with her and her husband to South Africa. They sailed in March, and in July came the sad news that the whole party had fallen victims to the enmity which existed against the white people on the part of certain tribes.

The following extract from one of her letters, before leaving the country, will throw some light on the reasons for Nurse Fairweather accepting the post she did:—

'I am going out with a lady whom I have nursed in her confinement, and I am giving up my parents, friends, home, for the child's sake. I believe God will make me a blessing both for the child as well as for the poor black people, who, I believe, are very badly treated. I shall need the prayers of the Members of the Guild. They have been a great comfort to me in times past. I am trusting in God to keep and guide me.'

In another letter from Beira she writes: 'We were obliged to land here instead of going to Durban, on account of the war. This is a very pretty place, but excessively hot. We are very anxious to get on, but hear that Mr. Norton's farm has been wrecked by the rebels. When we start for Mashonaland we shall have three or four weeks in waggons, but we shall have to wait till the war is settled.'

Unhappily the start for the farm must have been made soon after this was written, for the Norton family appear to have arrived, and to have been settling in before June 17th, the day on which the murders occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Norton and Nurse Fairweather are said to have barricaded themselves in a room in the farm, where it is supposed they were all murdered. Their bodies were found in a field near the house by a Police Patrol, sent out to warn them to come into Salisbury. The bodies were conveyed thither, and received Christian burial.

Nurse Fairweather called and saw her Warden of the Guild a few days before leaving. He gave her a commendatory letter to be used if an opportunity presented itself. The opportunity never came, for the Heavenly Father Who led her to the far-off land soon led her on to Paradise, where both Nurse and child are safe. R.I.P.

This is no doubt the first instance of a Member of our Guild meeting with so sad a death. Few will fail surely, on reading this, to pray that the good hand of our God will keep all who belong to us 'in their going out and coming in from this time forth and for evermore.'

LADY GORDON-CUMMING was practically the founder of the Lossiemouth Nursing Association, for which it is proposed to hold a Bazaar next summer in the grounds of Gordonstown House, for the purpose of raising a sum sufficient to constitute an endowment for one Nurse.

WE feel sure many Nurses who have visited Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest for Nurses at Brighton, will be glad to hear of the constantly growing popularity of the Home, which has been quite full throughout the whole summer. We sincerely regret that the Matron has been compelled to refuse so many applicants, for want of room, one extra bed having been several times requisitioned, and 39 Nurses have been admitted during September. Now that the winter is approaching, gifts of books and papers will be gratefully acknowledged, if sent to Mrs. McIntyre, 12, Sussex Square, Brighton. *The Lancet*, *The Ladies' Pictorial*, and the *NURSING RECORD* are received weekly. *The Queen*, *The Woman*, and *The Woman's Signal* are already promised.

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