

This letter to you, and your correspondent's information, will be published in the above newspapers this week.

Awaiting your reply, I remain,

Yours truly,
C. M. AMOS, Chaplain.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,
Editor of the NURSING RECORD.

I forbear making any remarks on the charges, but wait for the correspondent's name. I believe this is the proper course so as to get at the truth of the matter, and to obtain reparation for the injured. I shall be glad to receive communications from all Governors who are desirous that such a scandal shall be put down at once in connection with this old county institution.

Believe me, yours faithfully,
C. M. AMOS, Chaplain.

Mr. Amos is concerned, it will be observed, not with rectifying abuses, but with "putting down the scandal." We do not believe, however, that the nurses intend to be "put down." They have made certain definite complaints, and they will certainly have the public on their side in their demand that these shall be fully investigated, and, if true, redressed. We cannot agree with Mr. Amos that the agitation is "hidden and unchristian." In our opinion, it is a christian duty for employers to see that their subordinates work under humane and just conditions, and these, at present, if the allegations of the nurses are true, are not enforced by the Board of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, of which Mr. Amos is a member, and, therefore, conjointly responsible for the "scandal."

We ask the Governors to consider this matter in a liberal and just spirit, and to "put down" with a firm hand not "the scandal," but abuses where they find them existing.

Angels Unawares.

THE first article in this month's *Trained Nurse* is entitled "Louise Darche: A Reformer in Nursing and in the Civil Service," written in her usual sympathetic style by Miss Lavinia Dock, and opens with the significant words: "Shall we always look into the past for examples of our great ones in nursing reform work? We read the lives of Florence Nightingale, of Sister Dora, of Agnes Jones, and thrill over their struggles and achievements. Shall we have read these lives aright if in idealizing them we overlook those who are working here—to-day—by our side—in our midst. Are we any better for studying and for revering them if in dreaming of these heroines of the past we neglect to see that here, toiling before our eyes, is Florence Nightingale; there is Sister Dora; there is Agnes Jones, differing only in outward appearance and in the setting

and surroundings of their tasks! To my mind it is refreshing to see what people are doing to-day! So beautiful to know the ideal under the prosaic exterior of our associates in daily life! To this end I would try to bring out something of the story of one, lately amongst us nurses, whose work in its isolation, its heaviness, its peculiar difficulties, took second-place to none, and whose entire devotion to her task made her truly a living sacrifice for its sake. I mean Louise Darche, for ten years associated with the work of nursing reform, hospital management, and civil service reform on Blackwell's Island, New York City.

"THE condition of our municipal politics is so well known by all intelligent people that I need not attempt to describe the setting of the scene of her labours; the great city hospitals infected with every form of moral rottenness, usurped and controlled by men who had no standards but self-interest and greed while doing public work which was a public trust, and demanded the deepest sense of human obligation. The work she was called to do was not only nursing; it was a continuous struggle against evil in the concrete form of selfish and unprincipled men, who turned to their own bad ends the provision made by the city for its suffering poor. But no less formidable than the enemy she undertook to face were the qualities of intellectual and moral strength with which this nature of rare sincerity and courage was endowed. With these weapons alone did she many and many a time confront, daunt, and defeat those whose constant aim was to pull down and crush the principles of truth and justice which she upheld. Truly, she did noble work in the reform of nursing and hospital management, but besides this as a servant of the great city she was a true civil service reformer, worthy to stand in company with the most distinguished of those men who have fought and are yet fighting the same battle which she fought for the triumph of the principle of 'merit' over that of 'influence' or 'pull.'"

THEN follows a character sketch, drawn by a loving hand, of that truly noble woman and martyr, Louise Darche, and ending with the very wies and loyal words—with which we are in warm accord—"Shall we, then, look only into the past for our ideals? Rather let us give to those about us, while they yet live to need it, the comfort and strength of our approbation and sympathy." It is only those who have worked as pioneers for nursing reforms who can estimate at its true value Miss Dock's plea for professional loyalty.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)