

down the road after her, and caught her up pretty quick, for she took care to run none too fast, agin old Kitton's barn. I heard her a-screechin' and a-carryin' on. 'You look out and take care o' yerself,' says I to her when I see her agin. 'My Bob's a steady enough young chap, as there's none know better nor me, but men are men, and he ain't got that coloured hair for nothing.'

"'Coloured hair?'" repeated Olivia; but her still lips scarcely moved; she only questioned faintly of herself what the woman could mean. She did not wish to know; she had had enough."

Could anything be more poignant than that? The totally unconscious coarseness of the one woman—the laceration of the other?
G. M. R.

A Rallying Song.

Sometimes trustful, often fearful,
In this world of shifting wrong;
Sometimes joyful, often tearful,
Still be this our rallying song—

Aye, in sadness
And in gladness,

Nobly act, for God is strong.

When oppressed by deep soul-sorrow,
Life beneath the darkest skies
Seems so drear that no to-morrow
Holds a threat of worse surprise—

In such sadness
As in gladness

Nobly act, for God is wise.

When our souls are tried, and tempted
Some ignoble end to buy,
From the coward's bonds exempted,
Let us resolutely cry—

Evil sow not,
That it grow not,

Nobly act, for God is nigh.

MACKENZIE BELL.

Coming Events.

October 25th.—Royal Progress of their Majesties the King and Queen through the streets of London.

October 26th.—Their Majesties attend the Coronation Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's Cathedral.

Surgeon-General Sir W. Taylor unveils a tablet in memory of members of the Royal Army Medical Corps Volunteers who died in South Africa, St. Bartholomew's Church, Smithfield, 3.

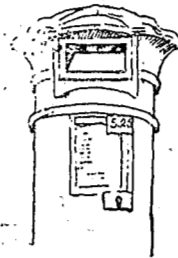
October 28th to 31st.—The Conference of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland in St. Cuthbert's Halls, Edinburgh—President, the Lady Battersea—including Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, October 30th, 10.30 to 1.

October 29th.—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick speaks on State Registration of Trained Nurses, Glasgow.

October 30th.—Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons Council, The Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 4 p.m.

November 5th.—"The State Registration of Trained Nurses." Address by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W., 4 p.m.

November 6th.—General Meeting and Social Gathering, the League of St. John's House Nurses, St. John's House, 2.30—President in the chair.



Letters to the Editor.

NOTES, QUERIES, &c.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

OUR IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I am greatly interested in Miss Janet Speed's patriotic endeavour to further the cause of Imperial unity in our new Military Nursing Service. It is the fashion amongst some nurses—and once a fashion is set, how quickly the majority follow the lead given, like a flock of sheep!—to speak slightly of "those Colonials," as was aptly described by your correspondent last week. But it is greatly to be desired that the services of Colonial nurses should be utilised in our Imperial Nursing Service. First, because surely, as British nurses, we must desire Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service to be Imperial in fact as well as in name. Secondly, because the work of Colonial nurses will be of much value. We Britishers are helpless women in many ways; highly skilled, no doubt, in the special work for which we have been trained, and knowing little beyond. Colonial women, on the other hand, are, as a rule, "good all round." They have not yet arrived at the pitch of civilisation, and, consequently, of specialisation, in which we have grown up, and can adapt themselves much more easily than we can to the rough and tumble of camp life. Of course, there are many ways in which we can enlarge their ideas, as they can ours, but I feel sure that the best results will be achieved in and by the new Service if there is a judicious admixture of the new blood of the Colonies with that of the old country. This conclusion I have arrived at quite apart from the fact that justice demands representation of our Colonies in an Imperial Service. How else can it be Imperial? The name is impressive, but we want something beyond a high-sounding name. We want representation of our self-governing Colonies in the Imperial Military Nursing Service, on a self-governing basis. That is to say, let our Army Nursing Department entrust to a Committee of Nurses in each Colony the selection of suitable women for appointment to the Service. Let it send, if necessary, an experienced Army Nursing Sister to each Colony to explain Army Nursing organisation and methods, so that we may have uniformity throughout the Service, and then let Colonial nurses rise or fall on their merits in a fair field where there is no favour. But before all things, let us hope that initiative and capacity will be appreciated and cherished wherever they are found. Wishing all success to Miss Speed,

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

IMPERIALIST.

[The organisation of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service is now in the initial stage. Due consideration will doubtless be given to the important question of Colonial representation.—Ed.]

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