

willingly. So with the help of this good business man, in the very month in which Agnes Jones was laid to rest the Nursing Branch of the Biblewomen's Mission was begun, L. N. R. ever after looking upon it as an "In Memoriam" of her departed friend.

Mrs. Ranyard's standard of nursing was naturally humble, yet in one of her terse characteristic sentences she sums up an ideal which the nurse of to-day can appreciate better even than its writer: "Hospital work outside all Hospitals." That is what L. N. R. thought district nursing should be.

The history of the Nursing Branch may be comprised in two words: Steady growth.

L. N. R. passed away in 1879. Her niece and successor, Mrs. H. Selfe Leonard, devoted twenty-one strenuous years to raising the technical standard, and no effort has been spared to adapt as far as possible the best hospital methods to District Nursing.

The group of nurses and Biblewomen here given will show at once that the two kinds of agents the Mission employs are quite distinct. The red belt, the bronze badge suspended by a ribbon are the only distinctive marks of the nurses, for the black bonnet with white strings and the black cloak worn on the District are both of

an ordinary shape. It may be asked: Why then place these nurses in the same group as the Biblewomen? Where is the connection? It is largely in personal character; the Mission does it utmost to secure for both its branches women of distinctly Christian character; each class of agent should belong to those women L. N. R. called "Lovers of the Book and of the Poor."

As the present Hon. Superintendent recently said, she desires as her nurses: "Christian

women, treating their patients with gentleness and sympathy, and striving to uplift the lives of those who are committed to their care." Indeed in district work it is too often the home as well as the patient that needs nursing. For the nurse with a distinctly religious vocation, I can imagine no happier field than district work on such free lines as those of the London District Nurses. Two instances that will show this occur to me. A nurse who had been several years in a hospital, joined the Mission staff. Some time afterwards I asked her how she liked district work. Her face suddenly beamed with delight as she told me what a joy it was to her. In another instance the nurse, until she joined the Mission, had had only wealthy private cases.

She had a touch that, as I watched her doing her work so surely and swiftly, seemed tenderness itself. She told me that during all the years she had tended the rich, her one longing had been to nurse only the poor. She had had to wait until duty allowed it; but when at last the Mission opened the way for her, her work was a pure happiness to her; she felt that at last she had found her true place.

It is felt that nothing but the highest standard should be aimed at both in thoroughness of

training and in subsequent effort to maintain the highest possible efficiency in face of district difficulties. The Medical Council and the testimony of the doctors, and of the hospitals whose out-patients are nursed, vouch for the thoroughness of the work done.

It will be asked: How are these nurses trained? Many come with three years' hospital training and need only to be taught district detail by the Matron and Sisters; but in the case of the novice it is thus: Supposing



BIBLEWOMEN AND NURSES.

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