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**Editorial.**

THE HEROISM OF DOCTORS AND NURSES.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie is one of those who realises that the nations who depend upon force of arms, to maintain their position and enforce their demands, are still in an elementary stage of evolution, and that, as men rise in the scale of civilisation, they appreciate the paramount importance of the blessings of peace. This belief received practical illustration in his gift of £300,000 to build a Temple of Peace at the Hague, and now he has made over to Dr. John Ross, the Chairman, and the members of a fund to be known as the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust, bonds to the value of a quarter of a million sterling.

In a letter to the trustees Mr. Carnegie announces that the success of the Hero Fund upon the North American Continent has been so great that he has decided to extend its benefits to the United Kingdom. He writes further:—"We live in an heroic age. Not seldom are we thrilled by deeds of heroism where men and women are injured or lose their lives in attempting to preserve or rescue their fellows; such are the heroes of civilisation. The false heroes of barbarism maimed or killed theirs.

"I have long felt that such true heroes and those dependent upon them should be freed from pecuniary cares resulting from their heroism, and as a fund for this purpose one and a quarter million of dollars in Five per Cent. bonds, yielding £12,500 sterling per annum, will be sent you."

The interest of the Fund is to be used "to place those following peaceful vocations, who have been injured in heroic effort to save human life, in somewhat better positions pecuniarily than before, until again able to work.

In case of death the widow and children to be provided for until the widow remarries and the children until they reach self-supporting age. For exceptional children exceptional grants may be made for advanced education. Grants in money or in other forms may also be made to heroes or heroines, as the Trustees deem advisable—each case to be judged on its merits."

The Founder of the Fund draws special attention to the fact that, "No action is more heroic than that of doctors and nurses volunteering their services in the case of epidemics. Railroad employees are remarkable for their heroism. All these and similar cases are embraced. Whenever heroism is displayed by man or woman in saving human life in peaceful pursuits the fund applies."

It has long been evident that while the work of nurses who show zeal and devotion in nursing sick and wounded sailors and soldiers, may be honoured by the award of the Royal Red Cross, and other Orders and medals, that of less conspicuous, but often heroic civilian nurses receives as a rule no public commendation.

There could be no happier recognition of the services of those who have specially distinguished themselves by acts of heroism than to relieve them from the fear of poverty in old age, which presses so hardly upon many nurses who are rendering devoted service to the community. Many of them receive salaries from which it is impossible to save even a modest provision for their old age, and others who earn more, frequently maintain relations, retaining for themselves but a small portion of their income. Every one acquainted with nurses could tell of many who, regardless of their future are heroically struggling with such circumstances.

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