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EDITORIAL.

ENDURANCE.

One of the effects of the present war has been to bring into strong relief qualities, in some instances latent, but nevertheless possessed by those on whom, in one way or another, the burden of war has fallen so heavily. And nothing has been more apparent in connection with the armies of the Allies than their indomitable power of endurance.

Who that has read of the endurance, the courage, the cheerfulness of our officers and men in the trenches does not thrill with pride that they are born of British women, who that has seen the men in hospital, shattered and broken in the war, does not admire profoundly their cheerful acceptance of pain, and what is worse permanent disablement. The testimony on all sides is that they are patient, uncomplaining, noble.

Again, the endurance of nurses has been tested as perhaps never before, as in houses raked with shot and shell, in streets in which they were exposed to the fire of the enemy on all sides, they evacuated the hospitals, and carried out the removal of their patients, in as orderly and calm a way, as if they were moving them from one ward to another as a matter of routine. Of course it was only their duty, and in the day's work; any one of their colleagues would have confidently answered for them that they would adopt this line of action, and in similar circumstances would have done the same.

Nevertheless it is none the less heartening to know that a man like Sir Claude MacDonald is able to say of the work of the nurses in Antwerp during the bombardment that he has "listened to the narrative of their adventures, simply and modestly told,

with feelings of great pride of race, which will be shared by Britons all the world over."

As with the nurses abroad, so it has been with those at home. As we record in another column the nurses in the Hartlepool Hospital at the time of the bombardment, when it is stated they were in as great danger as if they were at the front, went about their duties as quietly as if shells were not falling all round the building.

Again, endurance of even a higher quality than that which nerves men and women to deeds of heroism in moments of great emotion, is needed in order to face life with calmness and courage when those things which make it worth living have been taken away. Yet in the "Report on the special work of the Local Government Board, arising out of the War," just published, Sir Arthur Downes and Mr. J. S. Oxley conclude their report "On the Institutions for Refugees provided by the Metropolitan Asylums Board and by Boards of Guardians in London": "It is pleasant to record the wonderful self-control and recuperative power manifested by the Belgians who have passed through the Refuges. Apart from the quickly recovered happiness of the children, who take to new conditions like ducks to water, one cannot but be struck by the absence of repining, the endurance and spirit of men and women who have been suddenly bereft of cherished homes, and thrust from their country, with suffering and danger, to the care of strangers and unaccustomed surroundings."

"To struggle when hope is banished
To live when life's salt is gone!
To dwell in a dream that's vanished,
To endure, and go calmly on."

It is the capacity for endurance of this kind which breeds the highest form of courage.

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