

Lazaret there had also been three English nurses; them he had naturally disliked, the more so that they had a short, sharp way with them, and always seemed to disapprove of his methods—methods which being German, were of course, more truly scientific than anything likely to issue from the English Army Medical Service. The German Doktor worked side by side on the barge with the Frenchwoman, with glowing love on his part, and gentle aloofness on hers. It was when the Prussians retreated from Paris and again visited and sacked the village of Valoise that she understood. It was the old parish priest who conferred with the Herr Doktor as to the best means of placing the Mademoiselle in safety, "Is it possible you do not know," said the old man, "how the Prussians have been behaving since they began to retreat?"

The German surgeon stared. "I have nothing heard," he exclaimed. It was during the awful terrors of the days that followed, when Jeanne Rowmannès was forbidden to leave the village and compelled to minister to the German wounded, that the Herr Doktor was struck by a shell.

They carried him to the Red Cross Barge, and Jeanne Rowmannès tended him—and understood. In his dying moments there came the news that the French were once more in possession of the village. The Herr Doktor went on staring sightlessly before him. He was busily talking, talking argumentatively in hoarse, broken whispers to himself and his fingers picked at the brown blanket.

Suddenly there floated in the sound of men's voices singing, "Allons enfants de la Patrie."

There came a gleam across the dying face. "Das ist schon," he whispered.

"Le jour de gloire est arrivé."

The Herr Doktor murmured, "Das genügt mir."

Jeanne got up from her knees and made the sign of the Cross on his damp forehead.

We hope this story will be read as widely as it deserves, for surely it is good for us to believe that amidst all the horrifying records of the war, there can and must exist among our enemies the leavening, purifying force of simple and good lives

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

July 1st.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. General Meeting. Clinical Theatre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C. 2.30 p.m. Social Gathering in the Great Hall. 4 p.m.

July 10th.—Women's Local Government Society. Conference of Representatives of Affiliated Associations on the Recommendations of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, 88, Lancaster Gate. 3 p.m.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Do not grudge to pick out treasures from an earthen pot.

George Herbert.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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.

A LIBERAL SYSTEM OF RECIPROCITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I draw the attention of your readers to an extremely important question in regard to the registration of nurses, and which was not discussed at the meeting of the Consultative Board of the College of Nursing at St. Thomas' Hospital on June 15th.

I refer to the necessity of a *liberal system of reciprocity* in training, particularly in regard to the great *special* hospitals, which are amongst the most useful and important in the country, and the nurses of which would be seriously injured if such a system of reciprocity is not embodied in the general scheme.

I refer particularly to such hospitals as:—The Nervous Hospitals, the Chest Hospitals, the Children's Hospitals, the Hospitals for Women, the Eye Hospitals, the Ear, Nose and Throat Hospitals, the Fever Hospitals, the Cancer Hospitals, the Skin Hospitals.

My suggestion would be that an additional clause (*f*) be added to Section 3 of the rules of the College (*i.e.* the section dealing with the qualifications of applicants), to read somewhat as follows:—

"One year's training at an approved special hospital may count as part of the three years' training referred to in Clause (*c*), provided that the remaining two years shall be spent in a recognised Nurse-training School."

Apart from the question of injustice to the nurses now training at these special hospitals, the hospitals themselves in the absence of some such reciprocity scheme would find it difficult, if not impossible, to secure suitable nurses, which would be little short of a calamity.

Hoping you will pardon my drawing your attention to this matter.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

R. MURRAY LESLIE.

152, Harley Street, W.

[In the Nurses' Registration Bill, drafted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, reciprocal training is possible under Clause 10, sub-section (*c*), and also under Clause 12. In the Bill drafted by the College of Nursing, in Clause 4, sub-section iii, power is taken to regulate the "course of training and the examination of nurses intending to be registered," so that power is taken to define various curricula, otherwise "a liberal system of reciprocity," a policy we have always strongly advocated.—Ed.]

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