

## IN MEMORIAM.

THE Emperor is dead!—words which in their very simplicity possess the deeper sadness. The whole civilized world, it may almost be said, has, for close upon a twelvemonth, been watching by one man's sick bed, with alternate hopes and fears; and by that fellow-feeling, for the time, has almost been made kin. For many weeks past, the gaze of many peoples has been yet more closely concentrated on the contest between Life and Death which has with ever-increasing bitterness been waged for that great kingly form. Reverence, love, and compassion for the sorely-stricken sufferer have at least been uppermost in the minds of English men and women, unalloyed by the more selfish apprehensions which naturally have occupied the thoughts of other races, to whom the issue of this conflict has appeared full fraught with continued peace, or the most devastating war the world has ever witnessed. It is not our part here, to dream of what might have been—of those grand possibilities for good which seemed to rest in the hands that are now powerless for ever. Medicine and Nursing have done their best endeavours, it cannot be doubted, to avert the evil day, and to soothe the inevitable suffering; and now it only remains for the nursing profession, as the medical and all other professions, ranks, and conditions of men will doubtless do, to offer a last tribute of respect to the dead, and of earnest sympathy with the bereaved. A truly great and truly good man has passed away, and the world is immeasurably poorer in consequence.

He possessed, perhaps, the rarest combination of characteristics which could be united in mortal man. In face and form every inch a king, in mind and spirit he was commensurately great. A soldier from his boyhood, and successful beyond all precedent in war, he was essentially a lover of peace. A staunch advocate of popular progress, he was the very embodiment of a Divinely-appointed Ruler. Unflinching in duty, ever steadfast for the right, and absolutely immovable in his resistance to wrong and oppression, all accounts prove him to have been as gentle as a woman in his sympathy with distress. God has taken from the world a Paladin of Princes. God's inscrutable will be done! But how can the nursing profession show the sympathy its members keenly feel, in common with the rest of the world, for the bereaved wife and family, and especially for the former? The Empress of Germany and her Royal Sisters have so identified themselves with nursing works that the nurses of England cannot keep altogether silent at this sad crisis. But they can only offer to the eldest daughter of their venerated Queen their deep and most heart-felt, though it be but humble, condolence. They know that words are but poor things, of little value, and still less efficacy in consolation. So they attempt to say no more but that from many nurses, throughout the length and breadth of her native land, will arise the prayer that the Almighty who in His infinite power and knowledge has caused her so dreadful a sorrow may Himself uphold, console and comfort her in her irreparable loss. P. P.

## WHAT THE BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION IS, AND WHAT IT SEEKS TO DO FOR NURSES.

THE British Nurses' Association has been founded, under the Presidency, and with the active support and assistance, of Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian of Schleswig Holstein, in order "to unite all British nurses for their mutual help and protection, and for the advancement in every way of their professional work."

It is believed that at the present time not less than fifteen thousand women are engaged as nurses, and the number is constantly increasing. The members of so large an industry have within their reach, and manifestly ought to secure, the benefits which would accrue from the establishment of proper union and co-operation amongst them; and should protect themselves against the introduction into their ranks of unqualified persons, whose want of knowledge, when brought to light by failure in time of need, would necessarily bring undeserved discredit upon the whole body. It is manifest that the amount of reliance which can be placed upon nurses, as a class,

will in a great degree determine not only the extent to which their services will be in demand, but also the rate at which they will be remunerated. Every person who claims to be a nurse, and who engages in the work of nursing, without having been thoroughly prepared for the duties which that work involves, is likely to diminish the confidence of the public in nurses generally, and therefore to diminish not only the demand for them, but also the payment which they will be entitled to receive. Every nurse, who is herself thoroughly qualified, has a direct personal interest in endeavouring to secure the possession of like qualifications by others.

The nurses who have been properly trained in public institutions, and who continue to exercise their knowledge where it has been acquired, are comparatively unacquainted with the conditions under which too much of private nursing is carried on. A certain proportion of those who attempt to become nurses break down as probationers, and either withdraw themselves from further instruction or are dismissed as unsuited for the work. Such women, in many cases, proceed at once to engage themselves as private nurses; and in this way come

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