

regiment as soon as his own was ordered abroad for active service.

There are, undoubtedly, some people, such as those of whom George Elliot writes—

"While there is warmth enough in the sun to feed an energetic life, there will still be men to feel.

"I am lord of this moment's change, and will charge it with my soul."

men and women who are ever in the front ranks of danger, who court danger, who are brave to foolhardiness—leaders of forlorn hopes—volunteers to nurse plague districts, leprosy, and small-pox. Such a nurse I knew, who departed the other day for Honolulu, voluntarily to shut herself up *for life* on the island of Malokai, where Father Damien rules, to nurse the lepers there. Such actions form the ultimate limit of human courage; they indicate an indifference to danger so complete as to constitute an absolute contempt for personal existence.

Enthusiasm and courage carried to the point of entire forgetfulness of personal safety are, however, rare, and will always remain so. Only few possess the temperament that will go out of its way to meet danger and trouble; but the man or woman who would shirk a clear duty because it is dangerous is a coward; the nurse who would not face any risk, however great, without question, if once it became her clear duty to do so, is unworthy to be a nurse, and has mistaken her vocation.

Absorption in work is one great antidote to fear and nervousness. Army surgeons under fire on battlefields, women nursing in bombarded towns, become oblivious of the danger around them when fully occupied with their duty.

Timidity generally means a too great self-consciousness. A nervous nurse, who is flurried at an operation, is usually thinking more of herself, and what will be thought of the way in which *she* personally is acquitting herself, than of her work and patient. In short, throughout a nurse's whole nursing career must run a strain of courage, or her other good qualities will be neutralised and rendered comparatively useless.

I consider courage the last of those three qualities absolutely necessary to a good nurse, and I have not included sympathy. It is not given to every human being, man or woman, to be tender and loving and sympathetic—in their integrity they are rare qualities, and highly to be prized—most highly in nursing; but they are not *essential*. But it is in the power of every human being to be honourable, pure, and courageous, with the courage of a disciplined mind; and those qualities *are* essential. A nurse may faithfully and truly fulfil her life's work, though not a loving woman; but she can never do so if she be dishonourable, impure, and cowardly. It is because a woman is naturally weak, that she needs above all things in her work to strengthen and brace her mind and body to a high and healthy level.

Through weakness and fear half the women in the world stumble and fail. Therefore I consider as the last of the triune of essential qualities in those who undertake woman's noblest work—COURAGE.

NURSING ECHOES.

** Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are specially invited for these columns.

I AM glad to see that Her Majesty the Queen, and both their Royal Highnesses Princess Christian and the Duchess of Albany wore the Royal Red Cross at the last Drawing Room. It is evidently quite a favourite Order with the Royal Family, for there is rarely a function held at which one or more of the Princesses do not wear it. By the way, I am hoping that some day Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to found an Order which she will bestow on nurses in the Civil Hospitals. When the Royal Red Cross was first established, it was hoped that it would have been given sometimes to those who bore the burden and heat of the work in the nursing world in London and large provincial hospitals, but it has apparently become an Order simply for military nurses.

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I CANNOT help thinking that if it were brought to Her Majesty's notice that the civil hospitals train most of the military nurses, besides those needed for the sick of the whole country, and are the very centres of nursing influence and knowledge, she would recognise that their earnest workers deserve some special recognition from her kindly and ever considerate hands. Would it not be possible, for example, to institute a civil, as well as a military, division of the Red Cross Order, according to the precedent followed in the Order of the Bath, where each class—the Knights Grand Cross, the Knights Commander, and the Companions—have their military, and also their civil, members? I am quite convinced that nothing would encourage nurses so much to excel in their profession. Nothing would more tend to develop that *esprit de corps* in which at present they are so lamentably deficient, and nothing would so increase their loyalty to the throne and their reverence for Her Majesty personally as some such recognition as this of their arduous but little recognised and worse recompensed work.

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COLONEL SEELEY, a well-known Nottinghamshire landowner, and late M.P. for Nottingham, has just set an example which I trust will be followed by many others in future. He is obliged to leave home for the summer and autumn, and has, therefore, offered his house, Sherwood Lodge (which is beautifully situated on the borders of Sherwood Forest, sacred to the memory of Robin Hood), to

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)