

Piercing sweet, the the wind blew through the reeds by the river, and in that moment the old bee dropped, and forgot the fitful fever of life, and became one with the everlasting comforts of woods and fields. At the same second growing thousands of new born in the golden city quivered in the full sunshine of rebirth.

A. R. BUNCH.

Now that this serial is finished we would like to express to Miss Bunch our thanks for the great pleasure this article has given to our readers, and for the trouble she has taken in presenting this story in such a fascinating manner.

### Aunt Judith on the Modern Nurse Fifty Years Ago.

NO, I DON'T THINK much of the modern nurse. You, perhaps, have never come in close contact with one. I have.

I was ill six months ago. I had our dear old Dr. Brown called in; he does not practise now, but I knew he would come to see me, and he said, "Miss Judith, you must have a nurse," so I had one from London. I wrote for her myself, and I said I was a maiden lady; I thought that would be sufficient, and that they would send me a respectable middle-aged person. When she arrived, well, if I had not been so ill, I would have sent her back; you would hardly believe it, but I assure you she came into my room looking as cheerful as though she were going to a wedding. So I said to her:—

"You probably are ignorant of the serious state of my health; in fact, there is little hope of my recovery."

You would have thought that would have made her look grave, but, dear me, no! She smiled and said:—

"You must not look on the dark side; I feel sure you will get well."

Her presumption took my breath away; I said no more. She took my temperature and pulse just like the new doctor, not feelingly like dear old Dr. Brown; there is such a difference between them. The new doctor and the nurse take your pulse just as if it were a matter of business, but with Dr. Brown it was quite another thing; you felt he was putting his heart and soul into it. Then she made me a poultice and put it on with just the same manner as Edith would hand you potatoes at dinner; medicine and food the same; not that I could take much food, but what little I did take she gave me as though she were sure I wanted it and would take it. Ah! how different from Mrs. Blissit, who nursed me when I had the chicken-pox. I remember to this day how she would bring me a little chicken broth or camomile tea and say,

"Now, dear Miss Judith, you must try to drink it, because I made it for you myself, and I know you would not like to hurt my feelings by leaving any."

I used to take it all, for I knew she would really be hurt if I did not. But Nurse Molyneux—yes that was her name; just imagine if you can a nurse with such a name—I do not think she would have shed a tear if I had taken none at all!

She stayed up all night the first night she was here; sat in a chair reading a book with her cap and cuffs on. I told her to make herself comfortable, and offered to lend her my Paisley shawl dressing gown, but she only smiled and said:—

"Don't worry about me, I'm all right, thank you."

Well, after that I did not worry, but I know Mrs. Blissit looked much more solemn like when she sat up at night, and she had a little brandy to keep herself going; but when I offered Nurse brandy she said:—

"Thank you, I am a total abstainer."

Of course, you know I don't hold with women drinking, but in times of illness and in the hour of death it is a different matter.

Well, that night came to an end, and she got hot water and towels enough to wash half-a-dozen people, and, would you believe it, she actually washed me all over in little bits, just as though I were a corpse! How I lived through it I cannot

tell, and she took no more notice than if she were washing a kitchen table. I made up my mind then and there that she should go as soon as Dr. Brown came; but he never came again. He had taken a chill, and so the new doctor, his nephew, came instead. Of course, I could not say anything to him; he is so business like and unsympathetic. It would have been no good to ask him to find another Mrs. Blissit for me, for he would not know what I meant. He never knew her; she died twenty years ago.

When he came he looked at Nurse's note-book, and said in the most cheerful way imaginable:—

"You are much better, Miss Judith, Nurse need not sit up to-night; you can easily call her when you wake if she sleeps in the room opening out of this. Good morning." And he went out and never came again till next day. And so things went on for three weeks; they were both as cheerful and merry as crickets the whole time, and when Nurse went away she said:—

"I knew you would get well, because there was no one else to take your place in the parish. How would the mothers' meetings and the clothing clubs get on without you? I am sure it was your strong wish to go on doing good to your neighbours that helped towards your recovery."

Stuff and nonsense! it was nothing of the kind. You could not do anything else but get well with a pair like that about. I've always thought, and I think still, that times of sickness should be very solemn; they are no times for smiling and for cheerful talk. I should have thought it positively indecent to die with such a frivolous person in the room as Nurse Molyneux.

M. H.

### The General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

#### Final State Examination for the General Part of the Register.

(FEMALE NURSES.)

Wednesday, October 5th, 1955.

Morning.

Medicine and Medical Nursing Treatment.

(First Paper.)

*Note—Candidates must attempt three questions and not more than three.*

1. What is meant by jaundice? State the common causes of this symptom and describe how you would test for bile in the urine.
2. What are the symptoms of pulmonary tuberculosis? Describe the main methods which are employed in (a) the diagnosis, (b) the treatment, of this condition.
3. Describe the symptoms, complications and treatment of whooping cough.
4. What is meant by "dehydration"? Describe how this condition may be recognised, prevented and relieved.
5. State briefly what you know about:—
  - (a) mitral stenosis;
  - (b) tetanus;
  - (c) adrenaline;
  - (d) thrush;
  - (e) cholecystogram.

Wednesday, October 5th, 1955.

Morning.

Surgery and Gynæcology and Surgical and Gynæcological Nursing Treatment.

(Second Paper.)

*Note—Candidates must attempt three questions and not more than three.*

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