

present war will have moments when they long inexpressibly to throw everything else to the winds and to start off once more for the land which calls and calls with so insistent a voice that it seems as if it would take no denial. But just here the test of character comes in. If the present duty lies in more uninviting paths, if she is convinced that just there is her duty, then the noblest woman will put herself at it as the huntsman puts his horse at an ugly fence, and insist upon its being taken. The more pleasure-loving person will shirk the fence, and with it the duty, but at the cost of the deterioration of character and subsequent dissatisfaction.

BUT it does not necessarily follow that duty and pleasure lie in opposite directions, and to those who are free to follow their inclinations, and who appreciate the delights of travel and the free, fuller life which is a feature of Greater Britain, openings may appear attractive in distant colonies which before had no charm for them. If this is the case, then, if the experiences of the South African nurses send them further afield, to raise the standard of nursing to a higher level than that already attained, the influence of the war upon their future will make for the general good. There are plenty of nurses to fill all the vacant appointments in well organized hospitals at home, and if the "war nurses" elect to "settle down" on more virgin soil for the future, who shall say them nay? If all accounts are true, not a few will "settle down" in homes of their own, and, by the way, the last engagement announced of an Army Nursing Reserve Sister is that of Miss Rosamund Rolleston, Sister Elizabeth of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

THERE are several instructive points connected with the evidence given at an inquest held on a woman who died recently at the Lewisham Infirmary. The patient, who was suffering from depression, went out to the lavatory and drank some poisonous disinfectant. The nurse on duty sent for the Night Superintendent, who, however, did not send for the doctor until half an hour after she was told that the patient had taken poison.

THE lessons to be learnt are—first, that all disinfectants should be kept under lock and key; secondly, that in all cases of emergency, the Charge Nurse on duty should send direct to the medical officer, as well as the Night Superintendent, and that a second nurse should always be available, who can be sent for assistance if necessary; thirdly, that as all officials are at times liable to errors of judgment, the likelihood

of the occurrence of such errors should be minimized in hospitals and infirmaries by the enforcement of strict regulations with regard to the duties of nursing staffs on such matters.

THE Hayfield and New Mills Guardians, who have for the last two months spent from £1 to £1 10s. weekly in advertising for a nurse, have had a somewhat unusual application for the post from Mr. John Lowe, of Birch Vale, an ex-member of the New Mills District Council, as follows:—"Gentlemen,—As you don't state in your advertisement the sect, I assume I am in order in making application for the situation. I am a good hand at the job, and I can assure you if I get the appointment the deserving poor will receive at my hands the greatest kindness. Of course, you have in the House those that can work, and that can have work but won't work. Those I would give the cat until they did work. Englishmen's policy to succeed is cant, to accomplish their object, but go to the D— afterwards. Such hypocrisy does not agree with my conscientious convictions; therefore, I call a spade a spade, as no one can serve two masters. He cannot be a preacher of Christ and a packer of a Game Law Bench. I do not enclose any references, as the Guardians know me, and having been now at times for two years a servant to your Board without a complaint, may be quite sufficient. I am at liberty to commence duties forthwith if favoured with the appointment, and I have every confidence that I can get on well with the present officials." Notwithstanding the urgent need for a nurse, it is not surprising that the letter was ordered to lie on the table.

MANY nurses in this country will be glad to know that Miss Hanna Kindbom, formerly Superintendent of Nursing at the Galveston Hospital, was not in that city at the time of the disaster, having resigned her position and gone to Sherman, Texas, where she has recently been actively interested in raising funds for the nurses who lost their all in the late floods. Those who know Miss Kindbom, and her forceful and kindly nature, will realize that the organization of such a fund could not be in better hands.

IT is with the greatest pleasure that we are able to announce that Miss Clara Barton, President of the American Red Cross Society, who was so seriously ill at Galveston, is now in harness again and is engaged in relief work, and in superintending the erection of temporary homes. Long may she be spared to direct the work of the Society for which she has done so much.

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