

"It's uncommon unkind, sitting here day in and day out, nobody coming in to ask me to do a hand's turn for anybody. It'll be a blessing when they lay the useless old 'oman in the churchyard, she's forgotten already."

There was a little tap at the door, and a very brisk, clear voice said, "May I come in?" next moment the Queen's Nurse stood before us.

"I beg your pardon for disturbing you," she said, "I want to ask a favour of you, Mrs. Cole. Will you make some gruel for Mrs. Green; I know no one can make it like you?"

I looked at Granny in some distress, for I half expected to hear some fierce eloquence from the old dame, and the new nurse looked far too pretty and kind to be equal to this kind of warfare. I was quite unprepared for the meek reply,

"It will be a pleasure to me to do it, Miss."

The Queen's Nurse stayed chatting for a few minutes, and I had leisure to observe the old school and the new, ignorance and knowledge meeting on the common ground of love for, and longing to help, their kind. Granny conducted her visitor to the door, which was a rare condescension for her, and as they shook hands Nurse Lester said:—

"I shall often come to you for a little help if I may. You know all the people so well, and I feel terribly strange and new."

Later in the evening the Queen's Nurse overtook me as I was crossing the Bridge meadow. I attacked her at once with a question that had worried me all day.

"Was that basin of gruel a premeditated affair?"

"What sort of a woman do you take me for?" she said, and I felt that my question had deserved the rebuke. After a little silence she said:—

"That Granny Cole is a gem. Her nursing may not be up to date, but she knows lots about humanity. She has studied these people all her life and she knows them through and through. If she had only the power of expression she would startle you all as a novelist."

Truly, as Granny says, my small world is witched; but the crowning picture of Granny Cole as a novelist is too much for me, and I hie me home to my four-footed friends, who don't have these startling ideas.

JESSIE HARVEY.

The General Staff of the War Office is to be increased by a section to be devoted to the technical study of the organisation of the medical *personnel* of foreign armies and of matters connected with the care and treatment of the wounded and sick in war.

## Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

POSTINGS AND TRANSFERS.—*Sisters*: Miss M. E. Harding, to Military Hospital, Curragh, Miss E. J. Martin, to Military Hospital, Hounslow, on return from South Africa; Miss A. Nixon, to the Charing Cross Hospital, for a course of two months' post-graduate study; Miss E. M. Todd, to the London Hospital, for a course of two months' post-graduate study, from Connaught Hospital, Aldershot; Miss A. A. Murphy, to Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, from Military Hospital, Hounslow.

*Staff Nurses*: Miss M. Antrobus, to Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, from Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank; Miss M. E. Brewer, to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, Miss M. Darvill, Miss E. A. Harvey, to Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, on appointment.

## Legal Matters.

### AN UNLICENSED PEDLAR.

Miss Lesley Cameron, a nurse, of Clapham Junction, who said she was fully qualified, and appeared in the dock wearing a nurse's uniform, was charged last week at Kingston-on-Thames with acting as a pedlar at East Molesey without having a certificate. The police stated that she called from house to house selling boxes of soap. When the police communicated by telegram with her employer he replied that she was engaged by him with ten other nurses to introduce a new kind of soap. The other nurses had obtained the necessary certificates, but Miss Cameron considered it *infra dig* to do so.

The nurse told the Bench that when engaged she never agreed to become a licensed hawkker, neither was it explained to her that she would be required to carry out such duties. The Bench, who discharged her, informed her that if she continued her occupation in future she would have to take out a licence. It seems almost incredible that eleven trained nurses should be found willing to act as agents in the manner described. It must be remembered, however, that competition at the present day is terribly keen, and that as there is no means at present of distinguishing trained from untrained nurses a large amount of work which should be in the hands of certificated nurses passes into those of unskilled women.

### NURSE ACQUITTED OF A SERIOUS CHARGE.

Mrs. Annie Nation, of Cheltenham, at the Gloucestershire Assizes surrendered to her bail charged with stealing a gold ring set with diamonds and emeralds, the property of the executors of a patient nursed by her. The defence was that the patient had given the ring to the nurse. The judge in summing up asked the jury to consider what would have been the conduct of an innocent woman given a ring under such circumstances. Would she not have taken any opportunity she had of telling people that she had got the ring and that it had been given to her? The jury returned a verdict in favour of the defendant, who was at once discharged.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)