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## Editorial.

### THE HOLIDAYS.

Holidays are good for all hard workers. The strain otherwise becomes too great, the string is tightened to breaking point, and the State has done wisely in arranging that at certain seasons of the year business is suspended, and the toilers in our great cities and towns can, for a short time, get away into the country or even for a brief visit to the Continent. They return refreshed and more fitted for work for the short relaxation.

Such an opportunity occurs at Easter and only the officials of the great railway stations can tell how many thousands availed themselves of it. But the general exodus from the metropolis strained their arrangements to the uttermost, for the glorious weather tempted thousands to avail themselves of the opportunity to go out of town.

There is no privilege that the average Englishman clings to with more tenacity than to his Bank Holiday, and it would go hard with any Statesman who tried to abolish it.

We wonder if the many thousands who enjoyed their Bank Holiday gave a thought to a class of workers for whom the day has no meaning, for whom the ordinary working day (and night) goes on unceasingly.

Bank Holiday only affects hospital nurses in two ways. The ordinary evening passes may be stopped, because some careful Matrons do not consider that it is well for nurses to be out on a Bank Holiday night, and further, all nurses, more especially night nurses, and those on duty in the casualty department, expect an unusually busy time, owing to the fact that some

people keep Bank Holiday not wisely, but too well, with the result that cut heads, bruises, broken bones, and even graver accidents are unusually plentiful.

In the wards, especially the men's wards, spirits are somewhat low; it is hard lines to spend the National Holiday on one's back in a hospital ward, and many a wise Sister on Monday last asked for and obtained the relaxation of the rule as to smoking, and arranged for a few songs and readings to relieve the general depression, and to get over the hours which are apt to run heavily if there is time to recall the past joys of a similar occasion.

Nurses are sometimes regarded as a favoured class. They have, it is represented, a month's holiday in the year, and odd whole days and half days besides. It is more than most workers get, it is sometimes said. But do people stop to consider that the ordinary worker gets every Sunday, and a long half-day on Saturday all the year round, and that the trained nurse, year in, year out, works seven days a week, Bank Holiday included? That she is fond of her work and contented and cheerful in it is to her credit; that it never so much as occurs to her that Bank Holiday is a day on which she can expect a holiday shows she has grasped the fact that in the service of the sick their necessity is supreme, and that it is a foregone conclusion that much which is the legitimate right of other workers is by virtue of the exigencies of her calling denied to her. Even the Hon. Medical Staff of hospitals as a rule take Bank Holiday as a matter of course, and hard worked hospital secretaries hurry out of town. The nurse—patient, alert, attentive as ever—is at the beck and call of all who need her.

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