

The ships in the harbour, of whatever nation and creed, were hospitals and refuges for the sick and the refugees of any nation and any creed.

Golden deeds—chronicled and unchronicled—shone triumphant above the awful glare of conflagration, and surpassed in number the deeds of darkness that never fail to add to the horror of any national calamity.

When outside help came, it found justice, trade, and charity busy and at work in sheds and shelters, while the blue-blooded caballero worked side by side with the day-labourer, pick-axe and shovel in hand, trying to save from the ruins what might be saved. The long list of who and what was drawn from out of those ruins, for days after the shock, had best not be dwelt upon at length.

Certain it is that among the desolation there were pleasant and joyful surprises, as well as terrible ones, and that children, women, and men, buried for many hours, and even days, were resurrected little the worse for their adventures.

A famous dog, a great pet in one of the police-stations, a friendly and intelligent comrade and helper, was sincerely mourned as *lost* for twenty-one days. He was then unearthed alive, hungry, but not starved, and restored to his excited friends. How he lived and on what I have not been able to discover. Anyhow, after a good sleep and feed, he seems to have returned to his usual duties with official calm.

Whole families lost and reported as destroyed were sometimes discovered camped out upon the hills, the children thoroughly enjoying the unusual situation.

But, of course, there was the terrible reverse: Whole families literally destroyed; noble workers killed among those they tried to save; and hundreds of tiny, orphaned babies dispatched to hospitable foster-mothers, for want of a single surviving blood relative to care for them. That they found many open arms and much warm welcome, that, too, speaks well for humanity.

Perhaps most interesting to those engaged in nursing is the record of numerous cures, resulting from the shock and agitation of the earthquake, cures that seem so improbable and impossible that if the names of medical men of note were not quoted to witness to their authenticity, I should hesitate in offering to readers of the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*.

However, I quote from my list: The first name is that of a dying man—Don Niconor Montes, whose end was so near, that scientific authorities expected him to last for moments only.

He was roused by the upheaval and crash around, rose (I am told) from his bed, went out into the street (where I conclude he spent the night in the rain with the other refugees, and was witness of scenes Dante's *Inferno* has not matched), and—recovered!

Quite as extraordinary is the case of another gentleman—Dr. Don Gregorio Annunategui—suffering from rheumatic fever. He also started from his bed, and escaped into the street. It was winter, and, as I said, raining. When he was put

back into a warm bed, fever and pain had completely disappeared.

Cases of typhoid fever, inflammation of the lungs, epilepsy, and other ailments are reported as having been cured by the shock, the patients recovering completely, in spite of (or, it would seem, *in consequence of*) terror and exposure.

A lady of 86, Antonia Yavás, suffering from congestion of the lungs, is reported to have recovered her health "at once."

A gentleman who had completely lost his reason became suddenly sane, remembered his family, his duties to the various members of it, discussed the incidents of the catastrophe with intelligence, and took a healthful interest in the affairs of life. Three days (while the agitation of the populace was at its height) he remained in this frame of mind. With the restoration of calm he relapsed into mental night.

A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The thirty-third annual report of the Council of the Hospital Saturday Fund shows that the income of the fund in 1906 was £26,460, as against £25,930 in 1905, an increase of £530. The Board of Delegates have sanctioned the distribution of the sum of £23,898 among 205 institutions.

At a meeting to be held on May 2nd at South Lodge, Rutland Gate (by permission of Lady Llangattock), it is proposed formally to found the National Society of Day Nurseries. The Society has for its present aims: To secure the passing of an Act of Parliament to prevent anyone opening a crèche without a licence; to insist that proper inspection be provided by Government as is already done in France and America; and to have day nurseries registered.

Lord Cheylesmore has invited the Mayor of Westminster and a deputation of Aldermen and Councillors to the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new hospital for infants in Vincent Square, by the Duchess of Albany, on Thursday, May 2nd.

Earl Cawdor, as treasurer of the London Homœopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, has received a legacy of £2,027 from the estate of the late Mr. William Bykur, of Poole, Dorset. The institution is at the present time appealing for £30,000 for extending the hospital building, and a sum of £15,000 has already been promised or paid.

The Birmingham City Council has decided to establish a municipal sanatorium for the treatment of consumption. The site is an estate on the Cotswold Hills, costing £17,000. Accommodation will be provided for forty patients, who will be kept under observation after they leave the institution.

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