

midwifery training. If she was working with a man doctor she would often have to take sole charge of such cases, and her skill would often save a life. To a lady doctor, the co-operation of a nurse trained in midwifery was an unspeakable boon. Dr. Stuart gave an instance of a case in which she had to perform version with the patient lying on a mud floor in a wretched hovel. She had to entrust the administration of chloroform to a lady missionary who had never seen a midwifery case, and it did not make her task easier to be informed in the middle of it, by her lay assistant, that she did not think the patient had breathed for the last few minutes.

3. The sphere of a missionary nurse was more than this. She must be filled with a love for the souls as well as a desire to relieve the bodily sufferings of her patients; she must regard herself as much an evangelist as any other missionary. The only difference between medical and other missionaries was that the former had great advantages over the latter.

Why did so few nurses offer for missionary work? Perhaps there was several reasons. Some thought they would be "wasted" if they went abroad. Their friends told them that they would be throwing themselves away; it was a waste of their time, gifts, and talents. "A waste" when the King of Kings desired to have those talents used in extending and making known His kingdom! "A waste" when such grand and wonderful use could be made of them, and in the training of native agents they could be multiplied many times! "A waste!" Ah, no! Yet that was what they said when a certain woman long ago broke her alabaster box and poured her gift at the Master's feet. "To what purpose is this waste?" Yet that "waste" was so appreciated by Him that wherever the Gospel is preached throughout the world this sweet story of fragrant love and devotion is told for a memorial of her who offered the best she had.

"It is," said Miss Stuart, "just the difference between the way the world looks at it and the way the Master does. Which matters most to you?"

Many said: "There is so much to do at home," but the question was not "where am I needed," but "where am I needed most."

Some felt that they had not the "missionary call." But in the face of the tremendous need, the fewness of the workers, and the greatness of the opportunity it needed a very special call to stay at home. Given the necessary qualifications, then, unless there were urgent reasons for staying at home, a nurse might feel that she had a call to at least volunteer for the work. The thought of the sacrifice involved should not deter her. The gift that cost most was the one most worth offering. But, from personal experience, the speaker said that the sacrifice was soon lost sight of in the joy that followed. In missionary work it was most abundantly true that the workers had their "hundredfold reward."

If a nurse brought her gifts and laid them at the Master's feet, then whether the way opened for her to work abroad, or it seemed right for her to remain at home, she could work with a happy

mind, for where there was first the willing mind it was accepted according to that a man had, and not according to that he had not.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SESSION then called on Miss Thérèse Tamm to say something about work in Lapland.

THE MISSIONARY NURSE IN LAPLAND.

MISS TAMM said it was not her intention to speak of the Swedish nurses who were working in foreign mission fields, but she thought it might interest the Congress to hear that in Sweden they had a mission field within the borders of their own country, which was probably little known to most of those present; she meant Lapland, the northern part of the country. One of the Red Cross Sisters present in the room had been stationed up there at a distance of about 800 English miles away from Stockholm. The great majority of the Laps were baptised, but there remained amongst this wandering people many heathen customs and a good deal of superstition. The missionary nurse had here a wide field for her work, and her influence might be of the greatest importance.

In order to make those present understand some of the difficulties in the work among the Laps, Miss Tamm described their ways of living. They lived, she said, in tents, and constantly moved about with their reindeers in search of the white moss which grows on the mountains and which was the principal food of these animals. They could not get down to the outposts of civilisation, where nurses and medical help were to be found, except in the winter. It was impossible to cross the extensive marshes which you found everywhere when they were not frozen. If a Lap fell ill in the summer he could not get skilled assistance; if he died, his relations put the body in a kind of rough wooden box, which was left in a crevice of the mountain, sometimes for several months, until the winter came and the snow made it possible to have it removed in a sledge to the nearest village, when the clergyman might have to bury between 30 and 40 dead bodies at the same time.

All the Laps descended with their reindeers during the winter to the more civilised parts of the land. They pitched up their tents in the neighbourhood of the villages, and then was the time for the nurse to do her work. She was either fetched in a sleigh or had to go on skies to those who needed her. She was always heartily welcomed in the tents, and she was asked to share the meals, which mostly consisted of meat of the reindeer and salt coffee.

The Lap strongly objected to be removed into the cottage hospitals of the villages. He was not used to beds and chairs, but was grateful to be nursed at home—that was to say, in his own tent.

A good nurse could do much to help this poor people, both morally and physically.

Lapland was a vast and beautiful country, the country of the silent woods, where the sun never set in summer and where it was never seen for a long time in the winter, but where the Northern Lights relieved the darkness for miles and miles of uninhabited land.

"You come and see for yourselves," Miss Tamm concluded, "what it is like, and our Red Cross"

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