

The Nurse's Sphere in the Mission Field.*

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(Concluded from page 25.)

A missionary nurse must regard herself as just as much an evangelist as any other missionary. Her nursing qualifications are, after all, but the means to an end, and the end is the winning of souls for her Master. The only difference between medical and other missionaries is that the former have great advantages over the latter. Their efforts to relieve the sufferings of their patients win their gratitude and love, and make them far more willing to listen to their teaching. When a nurse, after a busy morning in hospital or dispensary, sits down to read to a group of in-patients, and talk to them about the One Who sent her there to help them, she will find them wonderfully responsive, as a rule, and our hospitals could tell many a story of patients won for Christ through the efforts of the doctors or nurses they had learnt to love and trust.

For this work no elaborate theological knowledge is needed, but just a deep, personal devotion to Christ, a thorough acquaintance with the Bible and its saving truths, and some practical experience in trying to lead souls to the Saviour. With these qualifications a nurse may feel that it is just such as she who are needed in the mission field.

There must be many such amongst Christian nurses and yet how few there are who offer themselves for missionary work!

What can be the reason for this? Perhaps there are several reasons. One is that some think they will be "wasted" if they go abroad. Their friends say to them, "You will be throwing yourself away, it is a waste of your gifts and talents." "A waste!" when the King of kings desires to have those talents used in extending and making known His Kingdom! "A waste!" when such grand and wonderful use can be made of them, and in the training of native agents they can be multiplied so 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?" they inquired. 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

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told for a memorial of her who offered the best she had.

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

And then many say, "There is so much to do at home." Of course there is. Christians can find plenty to do everywhere. But the question is not "Where am I needed?" but "Where am I needed most?" Here at home where many are only too ready to step into my place and take up the work I should have to leave, or out there where if I do not go maybe no one else will fill that post for many years?

Another reason is that many feel they have not had the "missionary call." What do you expect to hear? God does not speak from heaven now as He did to Isaiah, Jeremiah, or even to St. Paul. But He *does* still speak through His servants, and when you hear the story of the world's great need that surely is a sufficient call. In fact, I should say that, in face of the tremendous need, the fewness of the workers, and the greatness of the opportunity abroad, you need a very special call to stay at home! If you possess the necessary qualifications for missionary work which I have already indicated, then, unless there are home ties which would make it wrong for you to go, or your doctor would not sanction your going on health grounds, I think you may feel you have had a call to, at least, volunteer for the work. If this be so, don't hold back from the thought of the sacrifice involved. It is, it must be, the gift that costs the most that is most worth offering. But I can assure you from personal experience that the sacrifice is soon lost sight of in the joy that follows, and in missionary work it is most abundantly true that we get our "hundred-fold reward."

Don't be afraid, then, of the cost. Bring your gifts, your ambitions, your self-plans, your body, soul, and spirit, and lay them at the altar, and tell Him you are willing to go just wherever He chooses to send you; and if it be His Will to accept your offer and send you to the foreign field, you will thank Him all your life afterwards for doing so; and if it be not His plan for you, if He bid you labour in the home field instead, then you will do so with a happy mind, having done what you could in making the offer, and you will realise in this case as in all others where there is first "the willing mind" that "it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not."

Let me finish by reading to you a few lines on "the Master calleth thee." Here we have

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