

## Camp Impressions and Doings

BY ONE WHO FEARED TO GO.

Up till the last moment, I thought, I cannot go; I must withdraw.

I had visions in my mind of a strange week, spent in the midst of over-awing Lady Doctors and Missionaries from far-off lands, who would be extremely serious and would attack the poor new and timid arrivals as to *why* they were not all keen volunteer members for the missionary cause, or what were they doing as Christians, etc.

The Nurses I did not fear, being one of their number. Still I thought even they would be the most serious and long-faced members of the profession.

You will wonder what my reasons were for deciding to go; I think they were three, viz.:

1. I was having my holiday, and was longing for a "whiff of the briney"; the expenses were small, and there would be companionship.

2. I felt I had done nothing as a member of the League, and that the very least I *could* do was to go to its "Camp" and learn more about it and its requirements and responsibilities. As a member I felt it my duty to go, as I was free at the time.

3. A desire for a closer walk with God, and a longing for soul nourishment.

"A Member of the Committee" sounds somewhat alarming, and savours of red tape, of which nurses know a little. I travelled to Mundesley with a very important member of the Committee, who, I discovered afterwards, had even refrained from inquiring which hospital I represented; and before the week ended, this very delightful "member of the Committee" was named "Bunny"; and only those who know her, will realise that the name suited her. She dispersed sweetness on the journey, not by offering the timid new-comer tracts and theological studies—but roses.

After a very pleasant journey, we were met at Mundesley Station by our Secretary and a nurse; with pleasant smiles and a very hearty welcome.

I think all N.M.L. members know our Secretary, and that any feeling of fear in connection with her is impossible. The whole week her great aim and object appeared to be:—

*Soul Inspiration*, in a sense more felt than expressed, for every member present and absent; that each weary and tired worker should have as much rest and fresh air as possible, and that in all ways, the week should be a true holiday.

At the end of our week we even knew her

better to be a perfect sunbeam, full of brightness and warmth.

After a friendly cup of tea, the family which in all numbered about 16, dropped all shyness, and any remains of professionalism, and went strolling in twos and threes up the cliff for fresh sea-breezes. Everyone seemed ready for any fun, and all wore happy smiling faces when next we all met in the dining-room.

I had known there would be Bible study and meetings; we were all told that in the notices; but I was not prepared to find it all made so interesting, nor to find such general willingness to take part.

We were distinctly told to feel free and not tied down by rules and restrictions, and I never once heard even amongst the new comers the least desire to do anything different than the plan of campaign suggested.

The Bible study and N.M.L. discussions were often held out of doors in any easy and restful attitude, so as not to lose the fresh air and bright sunshine. The afternoons were perfectly free till dinner-time (7 p.m.) for any expedition; and the Secretary and Committee were so charmingly open to any suggestion, which even the timid new-comers might make, that everyone felt encouraged to think what to suggest.

The evening meetings were of the most helpful character, being accounts from missionaries on furlough from the mission field, of their work amongst the sick under difficulties, and the grand work that is being done in far countries. Members of the student movement and some preparing as doctors also spoke many very helpful words. On Sunday afternoon a missionary study band was held, and I never knew before how absorbingly interesting it could prove to be. Books were provided on different religions, such as Mohammedanism and Buddhism, and each camper was asked to look up the subject, and be prepared to know a little about why Christianity is so far above them all. The interest aroused was so keen that we had to be commanded to tea by our good officer, who always looked after our creature comforts so well at all times, even rising very early so that all should partake of that favourite luxury, an early cup of tea and biscuits. Anyone feeling very weary could have breakfast in bed, if so inclined.

It was indeed a most delightfully happy week, and I hope that after reading this account of our doings at Camp, if any still have fears or misgivings about going, thinking that they will have a dull time, they will go to the next Camp and see for themselves.

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