

sit sewing, thinking of the eagerly looked-for holidays, which will soon be here. How delicious it will be to breathe the cool air of the mountains; to sit in the green shade, listening to the singing of the birds; to wander on and on through a tangle of hydrangeas and white wild roses, or in the deep shade of great forest trees? There will be tennis and tea-parties; old friends to be met again, after the years' work, and new friends to be made; but best of all to think of, are the English services in the little wooden church, and the singing of the dear English hymns.

Nevertheless, human nature is composite, and cannot subsist entirely upon a diet of dreams, especially during convalescence. I am very hungry for my iced milk, but the little maid seems to have forgotten it. However, I have often been hungry before, and do not realise that it matters very much, until a strange faint feeling steals over me, and the tears well up in my eyes. Very silly; yes, it was. But, then, I was only a baby missionary in those days, and I threw down my sewing, and cried like a child for my gentle little Japanese nurse.

EVELINE W. CROPPER.

PROPOSED SWISS FEDERAL INSURANCE LAW.

The Confederation does not propose to establish obligatory insurance for illness, but it will support those Mutual Sick Insurance Societies (*Krankenkassen*) which satisfy the requirements of the law. The Cantons will, however, be able to make insurance compulsory. The societies must undertake to pay the cost of the doctor and the chemist, or else a daily sick pay of 1 franc from the third day of the illness on. This payment lasts for at least 180 days. Members can be transferred from one club to another. The Confederation pays the society for each insured child and each man 3.50 francs yearly, and for every woman 4 francs. If the insurance society grants to its members 1 franc a day besides the cost of doctor and chemist, the Confederation will pay 5 francs for each member. *Lying-in women receive compensation during six weeks. Besides this the Confederation pays the Insurance society for each confinement 20 francs, and 20 FRANCS FOR EACH WOMAN WHO FEEDS HER CHILD HERSELF.* In the mountains there will be special arrangements to suit scattered areas.

TUBERCULOSIS RESEARCH.

As an appendix to the final report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the relations of human and animal tuberculosis, a Blue-book has been issued containing a report on the investigation of viruses obtained from cases of human tuberculosis (other than lupus) by Dr. A. Stanley Griffith. The report gives the results of the investigation of tubercle bacilli from fifty-five cases of human tuberculosis, from fifty-four of which cultures were isolated.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

AN APPRECIATION.

The death of Mrs. Ramsay Macdonald, wife of the Leader of the Labour Party, at the early age of forty-one, removes from the political arena the personal influence of a very noble woman.

When in the year 1896 charming little Maggie Gladstone, youngest daughter of the late Professor Gladstone, a cousin of the Liberal Premier, and on the maternal side a niece of the late Lord Kelvin, married the rising young social reformer, Mr. J. R. Macdonald, there were those who realised not only the romance of the marriage, but its spiritual affinity. And indeed time proved how true a marriage it was, the tender mutual devotion resulting in perfect understanding and happiness.

Very early in life the sympathies of Mrs. Macdonald were stirred by the terrible conditions of sweated women workers, and she took an active part through the Women's Industrial Council in making public the proofs of the sufferings they and their children endured. Since her marriage she has been closely associated with the fortunes of the Labour movement, and how potent has been her influence in all that has made for its success it is impossible to realise.

A gentle little lady of very forceful will, Mrs. Macdonald had about her the constant charm of youth. We saw her last at the recent Coronation in Westminster Abbey. She was specially noticeable, amidst all the pomp and glitter. Nothing could have been more simple than her appearance. We noted the high cut gown and little lace headdress, as perfectly consistent with her taste and teaching.

For many years in public work we have come into personal touch with this great little lady, on committees of the National Union of Women Workers and elsewhere, and conceived sincere admiration for her fine character and wonderful administrative ability. Women have lost by her death a true and understanding friend, and to no class will the loss be greater than to trained nurses.

Mrs. Macdonald took the trouble to study and understand the nursing question. She was full of sympathy with our demand for organisation through legislation. She was a Vice-President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and interested her husband, who has always been a powerful supporter of our cause, and many members of the Labour Party in the aspirations of nurses for just economic and educational conditions.

As a small token of sincere sympathy with her bereaved husband and family, a gift of flowers was sent from the State Registration Society on Monday, and the funeral, which took place at Golder's Green Crematorium on Tuesday afternoon, was attended by the President.

E.G.F.

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