

of self-sacrifice, to live our lives not for our own benefit; spiritual or material, but for the benefit of others and others alone. Everyone who has to do with nurses longs to foster and cherish this ideal, and our vanity will not let us see that clumsy lecturing will never do much towards it. And perhaps it is not unnatural, as the world goes, that the interpreter of a great ideal of self-sacrifice should, when she clamours for material rights, however just, lose by just so much the sympathy of an un-reasoning public.

No, Heine may be right as to the small modicum of happiness vouchsafed to those who are always worrying about themselves and their wants and their own souls and their own bodies, but for those whose lives are filled with the wants, the troubles, the worries, the griefs and weaknesses of others, I do not think the world is an unhappy place. We have no time for our own sick fancies and whining. Madam Unhappiness seldom sits down and knits by you unless you invite her, and Happiness is quite willing to take tea with you if you know how to entertain her. She worries remarkably little about the fineness of the china or the chaste elegance of the teaspoons, and is often marvelously content with earthenware and Britannia metal.

A few—a very few—gifted souls are dowered with divine discontent, but I must own that the majority of unhappy miserable people I have met were selfish and self-centred beings who grizzled because their own little schemes for their own little comforts went wrong. Like misanthropes, they thought "the bottom's out o' the universe" 'cause their own gallipot leaks.

The worst of it is, whilst there is a plenty of legitimate happiness, pleasure, and joy in the world, there is some that even the most charitably disposed must consider illegitimate. Of course, pleasure bears a very different interpretation for different people. The rapture with which some amusements fill their votaries can only cause mild surprise in others. We do not all applaud the same comedies in life's drama. But a true nurse's calling will always lead her, without hypocrisy, to show a certain refinement in her amusements. The range of "joyous pleasance" is wide, the flowers in life's garden are so many and so bright that we can afford to ignore the poisonous ones. And happy, joyous people are generally charitable; they are not, as a rule, keen on finding the canker in the bud, they radiate cheerfulness and good temper, for happiness makes for kindness. To them is given the divine gift of seeing the first ray of light in darkness, the

glimmer of good that underlies the basest and worst character.

They can say, as did the Sage in the beautiful Oriental legend of the dead and despised dog, "Pearls cannot equal the whiteness of his teeth."

M. MOLLETT.

1

Why wilt thou make bright music  
Give forth a sound of pain?  
Why wilt thou weave bright flowers  
Into a weary chain?

2

Listen and I will tell thee,  
The song Creation sings,  
From the humming of bees in the heather,  
To the flutter of angels' wings.

\* \* \* \* \*

4

No creature of God's too lowly,  
To murmur peace and praise;  
When the starry nights grow silent,  
Then speak the sunny days.

5

So leave thy sick heart's fancies,  
And lend thy little voice  
To the silver song of glory  
That bids the world rejoice.

A. A. PROCTER.

#### THE NURSES' PROTECTION COMMITTEE.

The Nurses' Protection Committee met on Friday, 15th inst., when the Chairman, Mrs. Fenwick, gave a report of its work. The committee was unanimously in favour of a Nurses' Approved Friendly Society being formed for women nurses only. It was decided to place the question before nurses through the Press, which is being done, and it was hoped that the meeting of nurses to be held to discuss the question at the Morley Hall, London, W., on January 18th next, would be largely attended. The fact that a National Health Act, which must provide nursing to millions of sick people, had been passed without any provision being made in it that "trained" nursing would be available, was considered a serious matter for the insured sick. As there is no statutory qualification for a "trained" nurse, the committee consider it a matter of urgent importance that the Nurses Registration Bill shall be passed into law at the earliest possible date, so that "nursing" under the Insurance Bill shall have a guaranteed standard.

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