

And as she had dreamed, so it was with them. The man who could not be reached by a woman's love and devotion yielded to the mysterious touch of fatherhood. Joy and pride and the newness of the child life held him at the first—and later the child herself. No gratitude was hers. What matter? She had her triumph.

A SCOTCH MARRIAGE.

By MRS. L. C. THATCHER.

Annie Fawcett, a trained nurse working in Australia, alarmed at the extraordinary tone of her sister's letters, returned to London. She found this sister Dorothy dying of cancer in lodgings. The landlady said she had called herself Mrs. Moore, and that the one-year-old child Annie found in the room was undoubtedly her child, as he had been born there.

All this was a revelation to Annie, who had no idea her sister was married.

Dorothy died without being in a condition to clear up the mystery. The sisters had been alone in the world save for an uncle, now dead. Annie searched for a marriage certificate among her sister's possessions, and did not find one; neither did she find anything which could throw any light on the mystery. She had the registers searched for proof of a marriage of a Dorothy Fawcett. There was no trace of such a marriage.

By hard work Annie was able to support herself and her sister's child. Ten years later she nursed a wealthy, rather elderly man who was dying of phthisis. To him she told her sister's mysterious story, as he seemed genuinely interested in her and in her little nephew.

After his death, Annie found he had been her sister's husband, and he left his property and money to his son by her, and a large legacy to Annie. He left to Annie a sealed envelope containing her sister's marriage certificate. It had been a Scotch, irregular, though legal marriage, and it had not been registered.

He also left particulars of the events which led to the separation of himself and his wife, and explained how he had lost all trace of her until Annie had told him of her sister's story.

The King has been pleased to confer the decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon Miss Georgina Phoebe Herbert Haines, Matron of the Convalescent Home at Osborne, in recognition of her special devotion and competency in nursing invalid officers of His Majesty's Navy and Army.

THE TRAINED WOMEN NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

A notification of the proposal to form a Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society has been sent out by the Provisional Committee of the above Society, to the matrons and superintendents of a large number of hospitals and nursing institutions in the United Kingdom, the result of which will be laid before a meeting of the Committee on Wednesday, April 17th. Scotland and Ireland may arrange to form Scottish and Irish Nurses' Friendly Societies respectively. Indeed, in Scotland the organisation of such a society is well forward, and a prospectus issued, and as in each country 5,000 nurses must join before a society can be approved by the Commissioners, or suffer the consequences, the action of the Royal National Pension Fund in "butting in" is calculated to split the effort for national co-operation amongst nurses, greatly to their detriment. In Scotland, for instance, it is doubtful if there are 10,000 trained nurses; and as 5,000 must join the Pension Fund scheme, and 5,000 the Scottish Nurses' Friendly Society before they can become approved societies, it would be the wisest course for Scottish nurses to unite and form one strong national society, largely managed by matrons and nurses. Such strong societies, if formed in England and Wales conjointly, in Scotland and in Ireland, could, by mutual arrangement, decide to benefit by members being permitted to transfer to such national societies if they took up work in either country. This mutual agreement would benefit the nurses of each country in an equal degree.

The attempt upon the part of the managers of the Royal National Pension Fund to monopolise the management of trained nurses' money is very undesirable. It means the denial to them as a class of the right to manage their own affairs under the National Insurance Act, as other classes of women workers are doing, and, if they could only realise it, to provide well-paid posts and patronage for men who do not pay one penny towards the expenses of organisation as nurses are taxed to do. As this is the only journal purporting to deal with the interests of nurses in which paid advertisements of the Royal National Pension Fund do not appear, it is probable that it is the only one in which a plain statement of fact concerning this matter is likely to be made.

Never was there a time in the history of our profession in which it was more necessary to prove our capacity to intelligently conduct our

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