

A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR.

"What is that to thee? Follow thou Me."

We have said Goodbye to 1912, and are now on the threshold of 1913! It is the first morning of the New Year; many of us watched its dawn while dancing "the old year out," while others, it may be, knelt in silent prayer at midnight service, where our first act of the year new-born was to receive the Holy Communion, beseeching God's forgiveness for the past and His guidance for the future. However we may have spent the final hours of the year that has flown, the thought that is uppermost in our minds now is, What is 1913 going to bring us? Will it be luck or misfortune, joy or sorrow, health or sickness, success or failure? Let us rather think, What are we going to give to this New Year? In last week's journal we learnt that "None of us liveth unto himself." Having got so far, our plan is easy. "Oh," I hear many of my nurse friends saying, "but people do live for themselves. Why, the half of England lives for itself alone. Just look at the way the idle, luxurious, selfish rich are living! Half of them are rich because they beat us down; they even do their utmost to get nurses to reduce their fees, but think nothing of giving £8 8s. for a hat, or 800 guineas for a motor car. Isn't that living for themselves?" All this may be true, but we must not judge others by appearances. How do you know they are "selfish" and "idle"? Many of the rich are very unselfish, and simply untiring in their efforts to alleviate suffering. And supposing what you say is true—well, never mind, it is not for us to condemn, but rather to remember our blessed Lord's reply to St. Peter's question, "And what shall this man do?" "What is that to thee? Follow thou Me." This was Christ's answer, and it must be our motto for the year.

Yes, as His followers we may expect sorrow, labour, tears. Christ's life was all sacrifice, and surely the disciple must not expect to be above his Lord and Master! And we must not look for the faults of others if we would work out our own salvation, if we would weed more often the gardens of our own hearts, and make our characters beautiful. Then, even though His guerdon here be one of tears for us, we shall not lose courage, but shall count it a joy that we are partakers of His sufferings, and shall "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Let us, as nurses, never forget our high calling, for it is indeed a privilege and an honour to be able to lessen the sufferings of this world, and

to be a joy and comfort to those in sorrow, and we must—

"Ask God to give us skill in comfort's art,
That we may consecrated be and set apart
Unto a life of sympathy;
For heavy is the weight of ill in every heart,
And comforters are needed much,
Of Christ-like touch."

Oh, may this New Year be indeed a very happy one for each of us. May we fill it up with loving deeds and kindly words for every one with whom we come in contact. May we give to it our very best. And if at times a spirit of anger and indignation fills us at what we may think of as the injustice and unfairness of things, above the storm may we ever hear the quiet rebuke of our Lord, "What is that to thee? Follow thou Me."

SISTER MARIE.

THE METAMORPHOSIS OF "FILARIA LOA."

A discovery in respect to the metamorphosis of *Filaria Loa*, which, in all probability, is destined to have far-reaching results, has been made in West Africa by Dr. Leiper, the Interim Wandsworth Scholar of the London School of Tropical Medicine, who has telegraphed home from Calabar that "The metamorphosis of *Filaria Loa* has been proved to take place in the salivary glands in a fly belonging to the genus *Chrysops*." The embryo of the *Filaria Bancrofti*, which causes elephantiasis, are known as *microfilaria nocturna* because they are found in the blood only in the night-time, and which, as a contemporary points out, caused Sir Patrick Manson to surmise many years ago that the intermediate host was a blood-sucking insect, and he subsequently proved the hosts to be certain species of mosquitoes. The embryo of the *Filaria Loa*, on the contrary, are found in the blood only in the day-time, and have been named *microfilaria diurna*. Dr. Leiper has now proved that the intermediate host is a day-biting insect.

The special importance of this discovery is that a large number of Europeans in West Africa are infected with the *Filaria Loa*, which travels under the skin, finding its way sometimes under the conjunctiva, where it may set up conjunctivitis, and into the muscles and round the tendons, where it causes "Calabar swelling," which is most painful, impairing movement, and, though only lasting for a few days, frequently recurs. Inside the skull these filaria may cause epileptiform convulsions.

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