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EDITORIAL.

EASTER.

All joys and sorrows become more poignant by contrast, and the joy of Easter is heightened for those who have faithfully observed the season of Lent, and entered into the spirit of Good Friday, by the revulsion of feeling from meditation upon the supreme tragedy of the world, to the bright joy of the greatest of Christian festivals, for Easter claims this pre-eminent position. The shadow of the cross falls even over the joy of Christmas, but no such shadow dims the brightness of Easter Day, which each year dawns fair and joyous after the peace and rest of Easter Eve, one of the sweetest days in the whole Christian calendar.

Like other of the Holy Seasons Easter is also a general holiday, and this enables many to enjoy not only the religious festival but to make a break in the ordinary routine, and obtain a brief rest and change. For many it is associated with the return of spring, and they enter best into its spirit in the quiet of the country, with the relief it brings from the tension inseparable from life in a city.

Nurses can often do much to assist their patients both in hospital, and in private houses, to share in the joy of the festival by taking pains to ensure that they shall receive the ministrations of the clergy of that branch of the Church to which they belong. Many patients are extraordinarily grateful for a nurse's efforts in this direction, when they are not well enough to take the necessary steps themselves.

Nurses, as a rule, do not decide for themselves where their Good Friday and Easter are spent. It may be that they are on duty during the hours which they would most desire to keep sacred. But in this case, if there be first the willing mind, surely

nothing could be more in keeping with the spirit of Good Friday, than to spend them in the service of the sick and suffering, a work which throughout His life lay so close to the heart of their Divine Master. We miss the whole spirit of Good Friday if we think of getting as much as possible for ourselves, instead of sacrificing our own inclinations at the call of duty, always remembering that it is duty alone which justifies us in setting aside the claims of the most solemn day in the year, into which, in ordinary circumstances, the exacting affairs of every day life should not be allowed to intrude.

Again, when Easter Day dawns, with all the joy inseparable from the festival, while it behoves us to do our utmost to observe it with all the devotion of which we are capable, let us remember that there are others equally desirous of "keeping the feast." For those who live in communities, and especially communities whose work is of a character which permits of no cessation, there must always be give and take, and some must forego the pleasure of services which, were they free, they would willingly attend.

It behoves those in authority, matrons and ward sisters, whose province it is to arrange off duty times, to see that the unselfish people get their fair share, and do not sacrifice themselves because some one else will make herself disagreeable if she does not get all the leave she requires at this special season.

It is a curious study in human nature to observe how very devout, and presumably good, nurses will endeavour to satisfy their own desires in this respect, by the sacrifice, without compunction, of others just as keen but more unselfish. Saintliness is never attained by self-indulgence even in the matter of religious services.

M. B.

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