

was not right to make "all the beds" without a drop of tea. He had, I am afraid, very little respect for nursing as a profession, as he frequently said "Why don't you go into service, Nurse? You would not work near so hard, and, I guess, be better paid, and I am sure you'd get on." I remember also a casualty brought in with angina—an unemployed engineer on tramp. I used to feel so sorry for him, and wonder what became of him, as when he went out he only promised to write if "he had luck," and I never heard of him again.

Then I think of a dear little tubercular lad of five, whose sole possession and joy were a fluffy monkey called "Jacko," and a handkerchief with a bright green border; these had always to be placed within reach both day and night or the outcry was terrible. Also a fat little East End Jew boy, who, between his fits of whooping, incessantly demanded "a piece of cut cake"; and so they crowd into my mind—a goodly army, some pathetic and some amusing.

Then, too, are those who have gone to their rest, and whom at the festival of "All Souls" we especially remember—numbers who have been made perfect through suffering, and of whom we feel we can truly say "May the souls of the Faithful through the mercy of God rest in peace"; others who to our human judgment seemed ill-prepared to meet their end and who surely need our prayers. Then little children, whose span of life has been so short that they only seem to have entered the world to leave behind them a memory of pretty baby faces and loving, clinging little hands, and of them we say:—

The Angels once their guardians,
Their fellows now in grace,
With them, in love adoring,
See God the Father's face.

The lullaby to hush them
In that eternal rest,
Is sweet angelic singing,
Their Nurse God's Mother blest.

M. A. F.

THE OVERSTRAIN OF NURSES.

Orders for Dr. Hecker's address on the Overstrain of Nurses, delivered before the International Council of Nurses at Cologne, which is being published in English in pamphlet form, price 2d., or 2½d. by post, can now be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, I.C.N., 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

IMPRESSIONS ON NURSING IN THE UNITED STATES.

II.

In regard to this matter of the training of nurses, Miss Adelaide Nutting put the opinion of the enlightened American public very clearly in her address to the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses, in January, 1912.

"Let me point out," she says, "how unanimous is the agreement that nursing is now recognized as of the highest possible importance to the health and welfare of the community, and, further, that the nurse to-day cannot fulfil adequately the larger demands now made of her without a sounder general education and a much better system of education in nursing than we have as yet anywhere worked out."

The Managers of the Bellevue training school for nurses for the Bellevue and allied Hospitals, in their last annual report note: "The subject of the training, the hours, the salary, and the ultimate career of the nurse is creating widespread discussion, and is being carefully studied by our Board." And again: "The Board of Trustees have heartily co-operated in our efforts to meet modern demands in providing attractive quarters, good food, careful supervision of the health of the pupils, definite vacations, and more thorough tuition, and to this the morale of the School is warmly responding."

Dr. David Sneddon, Commissioner of Education, has well said: "The person who to-day undertakes to follow the career of nursing without a grasp of the accumulated knowledge which the world has put at our disposal would be falling far short of any reasonable measure of human service."

The American ostrich is rapidly ceasing in nursing matters to bury his head in the sand. No go-ahead or up-to-date ostrich could or would respect himself nowadays after such conduct. He has done it in the past, as frankly and as unashamedly as the British ostrich is doing it at present. But it has occurred to him, by hard thinking, that the storms of evil in which it hails bad nurses and uncured diseases, and preventible troubles of all sorts, have got a cause, and a cause which his powerful kicks can demolish.

Says Dr. Favill on nursing work: "The point is reached in our work where the structure is greater than the foundation, where the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)