

hymn, with which many of us are familiar: "Fire of love." It is just this fire of love, love for our fellow creatures which is the highest form of love, which impels men and women, whose consciences are aroused to a sense of their corporate responsibility, to desire power to do *more and more* good in the world, not satisfied with stultifying limits and bournes, but aspiring ever towards the boundless because, when artificial barriers and hindrances, now imposed, shall be removed, the opportunities of the nursing profession *will* be boundless.

I suppose one of the real reasons why every noble effort at reform is met by so much opposition, is that the purposes and motives of its advocates are misunderstood, and consequently misrepresented. We have a classical example of that. The great and good Roman Emperor, Marcus Aurelius, whose beautiful "Meditations" is a standard work of to-day, sanctioned the persecution of the early Christians. This was because their enemies so monstrously misrepresented them to him that he was forced to believe that they were morally and politically subversive and abominable.

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After referring to the urgent need of reform in Poor Law administration, in which there had been no change for over many years, the Royal Commission appointed, their two-fold report to the Government; also to the urgent need of the reform of State Registration of Nurses, the Select Committee appointed, and their pronouncement in favour of the measure, eight years ago, the speaker pointed out that in both cases nothing has been done and added:—

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Do we ask why? The causes are really quite easy to see. We are out of harmony with Nature. Woman was created to be the helpmeet for man in the fullest and broadest sense. This was ordained by the Great Creator. To adjust a right balance, the male and female brain should work together in harmony like a duet. The woman's point of view is always necessary in almost all things that concern the nation's welfare, certainly in those things that concern the nation's health, and the nation's children. Give us fuller opportunities we say, "to comfort and relieve all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate."

This is the higher thought among women. This is the vision of our ideal. All great national movements tend to become international in course of time. Thus we find the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland affiliated to that splendid confederacy, the International Council, founded by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

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One of the best definitions of education is "Preparation for complete living." . . . Our purpose is to train ourselves in order that we may train others for complete living—healthy, happy, moral.

This international movement among trained nurses is only part of the great Woman's Movement, which is also international.

I do beg of you most earnestly to eradicate from your minds, if it should rest there, the false idea that possesses many minds, namely, that women want to usurp the position of men, to rule men, to become unsexed, and all that sort of nonsense. There is not a word of truth in it, it is all misrepresentation. The movement is essentially feminine. All that women want is simply to *play a duet with men!* And all who love music and concord will applaud the desire. We ought to be, however, and we are, very thankful for many encouraging facts and signs, and I will conclude this address with Tennyson's inspiring words:—

"I hold that it becomes no man to nurse despair,  
But in the teeth of clenched antagonisms  
To follow up the worthiest till he die.

### THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

The King has been graciously pleased to confer the Decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon Her Royal Highness Princess Andreas of Greece, in recognition of her services in nursing the sick and wounded among the Greek soldiers during the recent war.

Princess Andreas of Greece, who has just been the guest of Queen Alexandra at Sandringham, distinguished herself very greatly by her practical work in the ambulances during the Balkan War. Her sister-in-law, the present Queen of Greece, was in delicate health at the time; and it was Princess Andreas who more or less took over the whole management of the arduous work in that connection. The Princess, who is the elder of the two daughters of Prince and Princess Louis of Battenberg, is very handsome, and of a very amiable disposition. The English nurses who worked with her in Greece, have nothing but praises for her kindness and charm.

On Friday in last week Princess Andreas of Greece paid a visit to the Charing Cross Hospital. Her special interest in the hospital is due to the services rendered during the Balkan war by three members of its nursing staff, Sisters Boase, Hopton, and Spencer, to the Greek sick and wounded.

### RESIGNATION.

The value of a good Matron to a hospital receives practical exemplification in the experience of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover, whose Matron, Mrs. Brough-Law, has just resigned after thirteen years of office. In 1904 she started "Pound Day," which has proved so popular that it has brought in no less than £508 5s. 5d., and, in addition to this, she has handed over to the treasurer in cash over £1,000. She has thus saved her salary, as well as maintained the nursing of the hospital in a high state of efficiency.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)