

Maud tells him: "I'd much rather go with you, and you know it."

Yes, Simon knew that, but also he knew that she would rather accept things from a man she despised than go without. What she wanted she must have—it was just that. And if the price was high, well, when had ever Maud stopped to ask the price of a thing that took her fancy?

So true was this that she found the way out. Unknown to Simon she had been married before, and she confirmed that of which she had not been sure at the time of her second marriage, namely, that her husband had not died till after the ceremony. She unhesitatingly then leaves Simon for Isidore.

However, Simon consoles himself with Cicely, who was quite a nice girl. His troubles, however, were not then at an end, for he was terribly hurt in a railway smash by an injury to his spine. He was taken to a nursing home, where one nurse is described as a "pretty girl with light fluffy hair, who was quite horribly sorry for Cicely," and another whose "dress crackled as she moved across the room."

In spite of the opinion of eminent surgeons that Simon's injuries were such that he would never walk again, he surmounted the difficulty on Christian Science principles. "Rise up and walk. That was what he had to do. He took his hand off the edge of the bed, put one foot out in front of him. And it was quite easy."

Miss Wentworth has not reached again the high water mark that she gained in "A Marriage under the Terror."

H. H.

THE PANGS OF VICTORY.

Unswerving lance or falchion sure,
With hardihood I meet;
But help me, Heaven, to endure
Their death whom I defeat.

—Richard Kirk, *Harper's Weekly*.

COMING EVENTS.

September 30th.—Nurses' Missionary League. Valedictory Meetings. University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C.

October 8th.—Meeting Central Midwives Board. Caxton House, S.W. 3.30 p.m.

October 9th.—Meeting of the Matron's Council of Great Britain and Ireland. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 3.30 p.m. Tea.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

REIMS. THE HOLIEST GROUND IN FRANCE.

"As the true disciple gazes, spirit answers spirit, the glorious poem languaged in the stone breaks forth into a silent chant of life, voiceless thoughts pass into the gazer's soul and enter there, and there revive the memory of noble minds that built their hearts, their blood, their all, into those walls."—Edward Thring.

This famous basilica is now a heap of ruins.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

A VERY HARMFUL SUGGESTION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The appeal under the heading "Unemployment among Domestic Servants," to which you alluded last week, is undoubtedly necessary and the objects worthy, except, in my opinion, Clause (C): "To train and place a number of suitable girls (unemployed servants) as emergency nurses for hospital work, so as to meet the grave shortage at present existing." I take exception to this clause, because no body such as the Domestic Servants Insurance Society is in the position to train women as nurses. That can be done only in a good general hospital, nor could it be done adequately even there under three years, as was proved by a Committee of the House of Commons appointed by Mr. Balfour to inquire into this subject. The cause of the present shortage cannot be overcome by pouring into the profession still more unskilled and semi-trained women. This is one reason why enough suitable candidates are not forthcoming, for when trained they have to compete with these untrained women who pose as trained, charge the same and even higher fees, and do not know their work. Some people seem to think a few lectures and a few months in a hospital quite sufficient training for women who are entrusted with human lives. It is time people realised that nursing requires a long training and much skill. Unhappily, we nurses can do nothing to stem this tide of incapables, and only when we can get State registration will that tide be stemmed and sick nursing be recognised for what it is, a highly-skilled profession.

Yours, &c.,

MARY BURR.

Vice-President, Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

36, Beaumont Street, W.

Mr. Alban Gordon, secretary of the Domestic Servants' Insurance Society, writes in reply to Miss Burr, whose letter appeared in the *Morning Post*, that it is based on an entire misapprehension. He says: "The proposal which this Association has in mind is to endeavour to meet the shortage of nurses—chronic for many years past, but now acute owing to the present crisis—in the institutions of the Metropolitan Asylums Board and the various Boards of Guardians. We are informed, for example, by the former authority, that they are prepared to take at the present moment at least forty suitable girls as probationers, and it is such openings as these in fever hospitals, convalescent homes, and Poor Law infirmaries that we shall endeavour to fill."

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