

With the dogged resentment of the conscientious objector Lancaster remained in the middle of the road until the dancers ran into him.

The girl stepped forward, her whitely-gray gown showing moth-like in the shadows.

"I hope they didn't hurt you, she began anxiously. 'It's the Tango. They don't seem to be able to stop doing it, and, of course, they are only boys, and very foolish.'"

This was Lancaster's first introduction to charming Dandy Anne, who eventually became his wife, and rescued him from his hopelessly foolish Aunt Helwise.

H. H.

TWO ARMIES: DESTRUCTIVE AND CURATIVE.

As Life's unending column pours,
Two marshalled hosts are seen—
Two armies on the trampled shores
That Death flows black between.

One marches to the drum-beat's roll,
The wide-mouth clarion's bray,
And bears upon a crimson scroll,
"Our glory is to slay."

One moves in silence by the stream,
With sad yet watchful eyes,
Calm as the patient planet's gleam
That walks the clouded skies.

Along its front no sabres shine,
No blood-red pennons wave;
Its banner bears the single line,
"Our duty is to save."

—*Oliver Wendell Holmes.*

COMING EVENTS.

December 3rd.—Annual Meeting National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 4 p.m.

December 5th.—General Meeting League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, Clinical Theatre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 3 p.m.

December 7th.—City of Westminster Infirmary Nurses' League "At Home," City of Westminster Infirmary, Hendon, 4 p.m. Lecture on "Some aspects of the War," 5.30 p.m.

December 8th.—Discussion on "Preventive Inoculation" opened by Prof. G. Sims Woodhead, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Edin. Royal Sanitary Institute, 90 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W., 7.30 p.m.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"So many are
The sufferings which no human aid can reach,
It needs must be a duty doubly sweet
To heal the few we can."

"God gets His best soldiers out of the highlands of affliction."

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.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Herewith I acknowledge with many thanks the cheque for 5s. that arrived this morning. I am giving it to the fund that provides medical stores for the Territorials here. I am doing the out-patient work for them and find it most interesting.

Yours truly,

DORA VINE.

Eversley, Exmouth.

HINTS TO HOSTESSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In reply to "A Hostess" in to-day's issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING your correspondent has forgotten two or three important items from the nurses' point of view. I am not a nurse myself but a patient who unfortunately—or I should say fortunately for my well being—has had many nurses and so am competent to judge from a broad outlook. Patients and their friends expect nurses to be infallible. Why? They are "*just women*," and very good ones, most of them.

The little venial faults can so easily be overlooked when the big virtues stand out so prominently. I would like to point out to "A Hostess" that in all well regulated households the footman or parlourmaid sweeps up the crumbs after meals and so one does not really see how many crumbs the "guests" drop, unless they crawl under the table to count them, which might of course be the custom in "a Hostess'" large country house, but isn't usual. Naturally there is more damage done in the establishment when it is turned into a hospital for wounded soldiers than when entertaining week-end friends. In justice to a big and valuable class of patient and unselfish women, I hope your readers will agree with my views.

Yours truly,

A. J. M. J.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I note in last week's JOURNAL that "A Hostess," no doubt with the best intentions in the world, is kind enough to suggest we matrons do not train our probationers in the way they should go. Her remarks have not ruffled me, as indeed I realise there is much truth in them. Many probationers of to-day are extraordinarily untidy, not to say slovenly in their personal habits; and it takes a Matron all her time inculcating neatness and a love of order in many of them. Might I suggest to "Hostess," that, if mothers in all classes of life, "gentlemen's"

previous page

next page