

come of one of the training schemes initiated by the Central Committee on Women's Employment. The object of the Society is the organization of a permanent supply of properly trained "home helps." These "home helps" must not undertake any duties which belong to the sphere of the nurse or midwife, but are trained in domestic work, including cooking, washing, care of children, mending, marketing, &c. To place the scheme on a permanent basis £1,000 is needed at once. The Queen has expressed her interest in this work and has contributed to its funds. Contributions should be sent to the Treasurer, Home Helps Society, 4, Tavistock Square, W.C.

We hope there will be a generous response to this appeal, as such workers would be invaluable to supplement the work of trained district nurses. The system has proved most practical in the East End of London.

The President of the Local Government Board, in a letter to the Driffield Board of Guardians, has declined their request that for the sake of economy the three recently-established children's homes should be closed and the children taken back to the workhouse for the period of the war. He hopes the Guardians will be able to find other means of reducing expenditure without any detriment to the children under care.

The Early Notification of Births (Amendment) Act came into operation on September 1st. It is not a strong measure, and will require backing up if it is to be of real practical value.

Sister Margaret B. Weatherup, Red Cross Hospital, Giza, Cairo, in the course of a home letter, describes the great strain of overwork with which the medical and nursing staff are called to cope in dealing with the wounded from Gallipoli. She adds:—"I don't know how many cases are in now—wards, balconies, and corridors are full. The Dardanelles fighting has been very much worse than in France, at least the men say so. When one batch of stretcher cases came in we were not expecting them. A great many of the élite of Cairo, who were dining at their clubs when the news spread that an ambulance train with very serious cases had arrived, just came out to the hospital as they were, and carried the stretchers in. It looked strange to see four men in evening dress carrying the stretchers. Lord Edward Cecil was one of the helpers. It is not long since he lost his only son."

"A VISION."

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

"Autre pays, autre mœurs," thus runs the French proverb.

To some extent, superficially, it may be true, but under the surface, I venture to state, human nature is very much the same all the world over.

To the overstrained and worn-out workers across the Atlantic, as to us weary souls at home, comes at times a longing to step aside from the crowd and turmoil, and to turn from things temporal to things spiritual, and when that longing is most keen and the need greatest, there arises for them, as for us, an oasis in the desert, where, not only are our physical wants satisfied, but our tired minds are calmed and quieted, and our souls are drawn back to the "higher vision" from which they have so often drifted.

Two summers have passed since I wrote to the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of the charms of Buckfast Abbey and their Guest House, where amid the beautiful scenery of the Upper Dart the Benedictine Monks live and work by the rule of life drawn up by their founder in the thirteenth century. From the monastery the monks offer a welcome to all, and from the Abbey the Angelus bell speaks to the traveller and passer-by of "that peace which the world cannot give." And now during our recent journey through the States of America, amid the tropical scenery of far-off California the same message came to us from the Spanish bells of the Mission Inn, Riverside.

"Come ye apart and rest awhile."

The monks, alas, are no longer there to welcome us, but the spirit of their lives and teaching still lingers, and I think that a brief sketch of the history of the Spanish Missions and of our happy evening spent at the Mission Inn, may be of interest to the readers of our JOURNAL.

In the middle of the eighteenth century the Spanish throne conceived the idea of colonizing Upper California and entered into an arrangement with the monks of the Order of St. Francis of Assisi to establish Missions for the purpose of converting the Indian tribes to Christianity.

The monk chosen to take charge of the Mission was a certain Junipero Serra, a man of saintly piety and energetic character.

In the year 1769 he landed in the Bay of St. Diego, and within two months had founded a Mission at the mouth of the St. Diego river.

From that time onward, twenty-one Missions were founded along the coast, extending as far as San Francisco.

The Indians became Christian, and helped in the construction of the churches and monastic buildings and were taught to cultivate the land, besides learning the arts of wood-carving, basket-making, and weaving.

On the whole the Indian tribes proved tractable, and settled in large numbers round the Missions, but occasionally they rebelled, and rose up against

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