

mentality of the last century. In our laudable efforts to be efficient, we are in danger of forgetting that, if we serve with our minds and bodies, leaving out the beautiful intangible things of the spirit, we may not after all accomplish more than those who have worked without the trained mind or the trained body. What is the apportionment of responsibility entailed upon the public health nurse by her citizenship in the republic of helpers? It is not trifling. But we would not be of the class of those who claim a privilege, and escape the inevitable responsibility which is part of it. . . . It is for us so to meet the responsibilities of our day, as to open ever wider opportunities to those who follow us, caring little whether we ourselves are permitted to see the results of our labours, and nothing at all whether such results bring us personal credit. Only in this way, in true humbleness of spirit, yet with the pride born of consciousness of the power of opportunity, shall we be worthy to place our gift with those of others on the altar of service, so gaining the blessing of the strength that comes of united effort."

You will remember that I told you in a former letter that the American nurses are thorough, and that they aim high; also that they are not content with mediocrity. The words and tone of Miss Gardner's address is sufficient proof, besides quotations from others, which I hope have reached you. In consideration of the fact that the National Organization for Public Health Nursing has only existed three years, and also that public health nursing in America was hardly known ten years ago—as one speaker told us—it is astonishing how much has been achieved. As I was not able to attend the sessions of the American Hospital Association, which were held at the Inside Inn simultaneously with our own, it might interest you, perhaps, to know at least the subjects of the papers read by some of the prominent nurses who took part:—

1. "The Effect of Legislation upon the Schools for Nurses in California"—Miss A. C. Jamme, Secretary, Board of Registration of Nurses, Sacramento, California.
2. "The Eight Hour Law: Its Present and Future"—Miss A. A. Williamson, Supt. of Nurses, California Hospital, Los Angeles.
3. "High Ideals in Nursing"—Mrs. A. H. Flash, Superintendent of Nurses, Massachusetts Homœopathic Hospital, Boston.
4. "Progress in Nursing"—Miss Harriet Lick, Principal, Grace Hospital Training School, Detroit, Michigan.
5. "Correlation of Hospital Diet"—Miss Grace McCulloch, Dietician, Peter Birt Brigham Hospital, Boston, Mass.

I believe I am right in saying that Miss A. C. Jamme was instrumental in getting the Eight Hour Law passed in California, which, one speaker said, had been the means of greatly improving the health of the probationers whom it affects.

BEATRICE KENT.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

THE ROMANCE OF A RED CROSS HOSPITAL*

Wars, and rumours of wars, seem the inevitable note, even in works of fiction. The title of Mr. Frankfort Moore's latest book speaks for itself, though it is in a sense misleading. One would rather have expected, from the conjunction of romance with Red Cross, something of the frivolous spirit with which the serious and responsible duty of nursing is approached too often at the present time; but the author, far from this, is out to attack the system we half feared he intended to glorify. It is really good to hear from the pen of a layman sound nursing principles laid down.

Passing over the first portion of the book, which is full of shrewd comment and humorous appreciation of the attitude of various types of mind towards the war, we will confine ourselves to extracts from that latter part of the book which bears directly on the Red Cross Hospital. It was Angela Inman's Hospital. At the outset of the war she had been left by her godfather a considerable sum of money, with Lullington Manor.

Angela was a person of considerable force of character, good sense and good feeling. She was in addition young and beautiful. She was engaged to be married to an ex-officer of the Yeomanry, who was disqualified from offering his services on account of heart mischief, which was discovered only at the medical examination. He does not disclose the reason to Angela, but asks her to trust him that he is in no way a coward. He is shortly afterwards supposed to be killed by accident in a landslip, his body not being recoverable. He re-appears later, and that is part of the romance. The other part is the love of Dr. Charnwood for Mrs. Thorburn, whose husband he supposed to be dead. It was not until he declared his love for her that he became aware of the facts.

Mrs. Thorburn was a fully-qualified nurse, and accepted Angela's invitation to take charge of the hospital. From the start, it must be fully understood, that these several people put their private feelings on one side and took the job in hand with gravity. Nevertheless, the love affairs, we are led to understand, came all right in the end, and, managed with skill by Mr. Frankfort Moore, the "Romance in the Red Cross Hospital" cannot offend the most susceptible.

The applications Angela received from fully disqualified nurses surprised her, and all the more because of the certainty on the part of the applicants that their disqualifications were actually recommendations. Mrs. Morrison it was who undertook to manage Angela. Said she, "I will be your Commandant." Handing Angela the list of the proposed staff she assured her there was "not an outsider among them." At the foot of the list was the following note:—

* By F. Frankfort Moore. Hutchinson & Co., Paternoster Row.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)