

### AN UNREASONABLE PROTEST.

Mr. Peto recently asked the Under Secretary for the Home Department, in the House of Commons, whether his attention had been called to the question of the employment of female nurses in charge of male insane patients; whether this employment had been adopted by some asylum authorities and was approved by the Board of Control; and whether he would take into consideration the protest of the National Asylum Workers' Union in respect of it.—Mr. Brace answered: For many years women have been employed in some asylums in nursing male patients who are not dangerous or otherwise unfitted for female care, and provided that precautions are taken the practice is approved by the Board of Control who found its results satisfactory. Since the outbreak of the war, in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining suitable male substitutes to replace attendants who have joined the forces, there has been some extension of the practice, but in every case within proper limits, and without harmful results. Careful consideration has been given to the representations of the National Asylum Workers' Union, but the Secretary of State regrets that he is unable to comply with their request that he should ask asylum authorities to discontinue the practice.

### OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have this morning been one of a crowd assembled at the Canadian Pacific Docks to wish the doctors, nurses and orderlies of the Victoria Contingent "God speed," on their departure for the Old Country, *en route* for the Front.

A noble band, consisting of thirty-five doctors, seventy-two nurses, and—I believe—three hundred orderlies!

Many of the Nurses were staying at the Alexandra Club when I arrived there from a visit up country, and I was much struck by the look of health and self-reliance in their faces, and general bearing; and to-day, when I watched them march on board, ahead of the orderlies, I became more than ever convinced that the training a woman receives before she enters hospital is the training that spells for success in her career after she obtains her certificate.

To quote from the *Daily Colonist*: "Splendidly equipped with nursing knowledge, proficient in experience" and, adds the editor, "Morally strong, physically perfect young women."

That is how the march past struck me—"Physically perfect young women."

What a splendid foundation on which to build the modern nurse!

Why does she differ from her English sister? and why will she outlast her English sister in times of strain and stress?

My recent experiences up country have given me the clue.

The girls of Canada live an outdoor life. You may answer that many do so at home, and quote the love of games that occupies so much the time and thoughts of the well-to-do girl of modern times; but the Canadian girl lives out of doors, because her *work* takes her there, and when she is kept indoors, it is by domestic work, which develops and strengthens her muscles, whilst her mind is stored with useful knowledge and practical experience in all household arts that will be of practical benefit to every patient she may tend in the future.

In Canada many girls, at an early age, can milk a cow and groom a horse; and almost every girl can ride—and very smart and pretty they look mounted astride on any animal that comes handy, whilst the young girl's management of a motor car fills one with admiration!

I wish I could have snap-shotted for the JOURNAL a motorist I encountered lately on a lonely by-road by moonlight. She made such a pretty picture!

The rough, unmade road wound up and down hill through pine woods, lit up by a glorious harvest moon! I sat on a log, admiring the scene, when the young motorist passed me, guiding the car with one hand and holding on to a stack of lumber laid across the body of the car! She was helping father or brother in the work of clearing the land!

Out here women do their share in the home and out of it! The time spent at home on golf and hockey, out here goes in bread-making and cooking; and then there is the poultry yard to be looked after and the fruit to be picked for market or made into jam at home; but when there is a lull in the work and the men a little free, a picnic on the lake or a ride across country is enjoyed with a zest known only to the worker. This grand all-round practical knowledge, gained whilst young, in healthy surroundings, fits and enables a girl to grapple with and succeed in any career she may choose in life.

Now is the chance for the girls of England to follow the example of their Canadian sisters!

The men are fighting for us; they have left the land, and the land is crying out for help; and the work the land offers is *not* beyond a woman's strength and general capacity. *Only* she must make up her mind to face the fact that what the land requires is work, work, work; and that body, soul and spirit must be offered to the work. In a word, the work must be idealized if it is to succeed; but if taken up *in that spirit* it will succeed!

The harvest will be a rich one, and the worker's life a happy one!

The Alexandra Club,  
Victoria, B.C.

ANNIE E. HULME.

The friends of Miss Hulme and Miss Kent begin to wonder if they will ever return, they appear to be so much in love with the "other side."

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