

the time for the interview. I set off rather in fear and trembling for Miss Nightingale's residence in South Street, Hyde Park. I was shown into a delightful room, with windows opening towards the Park, where on a couch in soft shawls and lace, surrounded by her books and flowers, I found myself face to face with the 'Lady of the Lamp,' our beloved *Chief*, as we always called her in those days.

"I was at my ease in a moment, for this gracious, loving soul entered at once into my life's work. It was wonderful what she knew about me, about my ward, speaking of some of the children even by name. She spoke of the work, of the special responsibilities of the nursing and management of sick children, asking many questions which showed her intimate knowledge of every detail, and I can never forget the wonderful impression this interview left on me and the revelation it gave me into the mind and character of this noble woman, called to do such a wonderful work for suffering humanity, the foundress of modern nursing. After a long talk came a most daintily set-out tea, and when I left she handed me a bouquet of choicest flowers, which I took back to my ward with pride, and treasured for many a day. The interview I can never forget, and the remembrance of it has shone out as a bright light in many a time of perplexity and stress in the years that followed.

"I have wondered lately, in these sad days we are passing through, what message Florence Nightingale would have given to the nurses of to-day, all over the battlefields and in our war hospitals at home. I know it would be one of encouragement and a call to steadfastness to duty, in the face of severe stress and with enormous difficulties to be overcome. I think, too, she would have looked with approval upon the splendid patriotism and the response to the nation's need shown by nurses.

"Let us all go on working loyally, let us sink all differences and jealousies, and trust those at the helm, and let each one strive to follow in the steps of that noble example of what a nurse can be and do."

THE PASSING BELL.

We greatly regret to record the death under tragic circumstances of Mrs. Margaret Emma Turp, a nurse at the Eastern Hospital, Homerton. Mrs. Turp, a young widow, who had been on the staff of the Hospital for six years, and was much liked there, went out for her half-day on October 16th with another nurse, and parted from her later at Liverpool Street station, saying that she would be back by 8.30 p.m. She did not return that night, and next morning was discovered on the line near Barking in an unconscious condition, and died shortly after in the Poplar Hospital. There is no suspicion of suicide. She was in excellent spirits when last seen, and leaves two young children.

NURSES' NEEDS IN WAR.

The valuable services rendered to the sick and wounded at this time by the great firms which manufacture and supply all kinds of medical and surgical requisites, invalid foods, and other comforts, are perhaps scarcely recognised by the general public at their true value. We are so accustomed to obtain, without difficulty, everything necessary that the vast amount of scientific skill, organisation and business capacity involved in placing these elaborate aids to recovery at the service of our hospitals at home and abroad scarcely crosses the minds of the majority of people.

Yet, just as the work of the doctor would lose much of its value without the assistance he receives from the trained nurse, so both doctor and nurse would be immensely handicapped if business firms were not ever on the alert to forestall and supply their needs, and the needs of those whom they serve, for, as the cleverest craftsman is unable to give full expression to his skill without suitable tools, so the greatest surgeon and the cleverest and most highly trained nurse depend upon the co-operation of manufacturers and the great houses which distribute their supplies for the effective practice of their beneficent work, and it is not too much to say that many lives depend upon the exactness, efficiency and promptness of these firms.

We are therefore only fulfilling our obligations to our readers in drawing their attention to some specialities which directly or indirectly assist in their work.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SUPPLIES.

THE HOSPITALS AND GENERAL CONTRACTS
Co., LTD.

No firm is better able to meet all the emergencies which arise in this time of special stress than the Hospitals and General Contracts Co., Ltd., 19-35, Mortimer Street, W., who are contractors to the War Office, the Admiralty, the British Red Cross Society, and the Allied Governments, and thus have an extensive knowledge of the special needs of military and naval hospitals. Since the commencement of hostilities they have adopted the policy of placing their knowledge at the disposal of the many organisations which then came into existence, and numbers of nurses have cause for gratitude that organisations, without the necessary technical knowledge, so frequently obtained their equipment from this firm, and thus benefited by their experience. Their help to Continental hospitals as well as those at home has resulted in a considerable saving of funds which it is important should be carefully conserved, while they have supplied thousands of air cushions, hot-water bottles, and other appliances which nurses find so essential in their work for their patients.

Nurses' Equipment Section.

When, in February last, this enterprising firm formulated a nurses' equipment section, we

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)