

no hatred or bitterness towards anyone"—in my mind second only in human history to those of St. Stephen. Should not these brave words stimulate us to show her the highest possible form of gratitude (*i.e.*, imitation), and to perpetuate her spirit by trying individually to overcome every impulse to hatred or revenge by something higher than patriotism—*viz.*, loyalty to Him who said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do?"

Yours truly,

E. C. EVANS.

THE NURSES OF "THE PATIENT PASSIVE POOR."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In the pages of your journal, you have more than once drawn attention to the national importance of District Nursing and kindred work, and shown that such work is, in a high degree, patriotic and far-reaching in its effects.

Having stated the case of the sick poor, I feel sure you will not hesitate to state the case of the nurse, and to emphasize the lamentable want of proportion between the salary of the district nurse and the amount and quality of the work done. Trades unionists would probably aptly describe it as "sweated labour."

I wish to state, subject to correction, that many trained district nurses are at the present moment receiving a salary of £30 per annum (with a promise of a paltry annual increase), "all found"; and that, in many cases, all, alas! is not found. Does the district nurse always receive an adequate allowance for the lunch which is so necessary in the course of her long and arduous morning's work, exposed, as she is, to all the vagaries of the weather? Does every District Nursing Association supply its nurses with the flash-light which is essential to the performance of their duties at night, and supply funds to keep the same re-charged? Is any allowance made to the nurse for the boots and gloves worn out in the performance of her duty, and which make such inroads on her meagre salary? Surely an allowance of £4 per year for uniform is totally inadequate for a district nurse; and the usual allowance of 2s. per week for laundry does not err on the side of extravagant cleanliness! It is to be hoped that ill-advised economy is not also practised with regard to the nurses' food allowance, as, in addition to their nursing duties, they are subjected to long-continued physical exertion.

It would be interesting to know how much a nurse (receiving salary and treatment as above) has left, to provide for her annual holiday, for dress, recreation, church, &c., and to provide for her old age. Can it be wondered at if that old age comes early and unlovely. If defrauding labourers of their wages is one of the sins crying to Heaven for vengeance, what can be said for the pompous local magnates who sit on District Nursing Committees and placidly commit that sin, keeping well within the law of the land?

The re-organization of such wooden apathetic District Nursing Associations ought to afford splendid scope for the work of benevolent ladies of leisure and independent means. Many such ladies are now expending their energies in a manner which is—to say the least of it—mistaken, and to the detriment of the nursing profession which they admire so much as to attempt to imitate.

I have endeavoured to show that it may not be always the "glamour" of nursing our wounded soldiers which "dazzles" district nurses, and draws them away from their beloved districts.

Like their friends and patients, "the patient passive poor," District Nurses seem to be inarticulate. Can it be that constant association with the poor and similar worries borne with the same stolidity, have made them so?

AN ADMIRER OF "THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING."

ARM AND HEAD REST.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you very much indeed for the kind notice you gave in your most interesting paper to my "Arm and Head Rest," also for the copy you kindly sent me. I read it every week, so am specially glad to see my work noticed in your columns. The Red Cross officials are very pleased with the invention. I belong to the V.A.D. 210. I noticed the wounded soldiers often say their arms are tired and the pillows so hot, and thought out this,

Again thanking you,

I am yours truly,

ALICE HOARE-WARD.

7, Cleveland Mansions, W.

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps Service in France can be interviewed by arrangement with the Hon. Secretary, 60, Nevern Square, Earl's Court, S.W. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Friday, November 26th, and Monday, November 29th, from 2.30 to 5 p.m., to see candidates, who must be well educated and hold a certificate for three years' general training, which they should bring for inspection. Experience in fever nursing is an additional advantage.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

December 4th.—Outline the nursing care of exophthalmic goitre following operation.

December 11th.—What care would you give mother and child for first five days after birth?

December 18th.—What is meant by (a) public hygiene; (b) personal hygiene; (c) mental hygiene; (d) sanitation?

December 25th.—(a) Name three diseases requiring special diet; (b) give proper menu for a meal for each disease.

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