

bad, an' you can look out for trouble. A friend of mine 'as 'ad 'er son returned to 'er with bofe 'is eyes pushed in by them beastly Germans. Wot I sez is, 'as 'e is better dead."

The old woman waited for no more. Fear possessed her and hurried her footsteps. She could not reach the ward where Jim lay fast enough.

But when she actually stood outside the door and saw written up "William Ward," then a trembling seized her. She shook from head to foot and her breath came in nervous gasps.

The staff nurse found her there some minutes later and inquired with a kindly smile whom she wished to see.

Mrs. Bartlett strove to appear calm.

"Jim Bartlett, an' don't tell me anything about 'im cos it might be bad."

She saw him before he saw her, and her heart gave a great bound of joy. There was nothing wrong with his eyes. He did not even look thin and ill. He was lying peacefully with the bed clothes drawn up to his chin.

She stooped and kissed him in a flutter of excitement not unmixed with pride. She thought he must be feeling chilly to be wrapped up like that.

Jim glanced proudly at her. His quick eye noted the frailty of her body. He realised how the strain of the war had told upon her. "You are a warrior comin' all this way to see me," he remarked.

Mrs. Bartlett choked, then pulled herself together. "No distance would 'ave stopped me, son," she said quietly.

She wanted to ask him where he was wounded, but fear tied her tongue. She was sure he would tell her himself if she only waited. She laid the parcels of fruit and sweets she had brought him on the locker beside his bed.

Jim was touched by the thoughtfulness she had displayed in these simple little purchases. There were acid drops in case his mouth was dry, and lots of thick skinned juiceless little oranges plainly for the same purpose. The outlay, considering the amount of money spent, was considerable. quantity had evidently been thought more of than quality.

Mrs. Bartlett's anxious eye noted that, although Jim seemed pleased with everything, he did not move to touch them. He only nodded approval and remained motionless as before.

She untied the bunches of snowdrops and laid them on the counterpane. "You remember 'ow you liked snowdrops before when you was so ill," she said softly.

Jim looked uneasily at her. "I ain't ill," he muttered.

"But you do like them," she urged. A vague unhappiness was beginning to take possession of her. "Take 'em up an' look at 'em," she persisted.

Jim breathed heavily then, and the look in his eyes frightened her.

"I can't. My arms is off," he whispered.

JESSIE C. BEGG.

## THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, Ltd.

A meeting took place in the Governors' Hall at St. Thomas's Hospital on Friday, April 7th, of representatives of hospitals and training schools, and of societies of nurses, in connection with the College of Nursing, Ltd., with a view to discussing the formation of a Consultative Board. The Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., M.V.O., presided, and there were present on the platform Miss Lloyd Still, Miss Swift, Sir Cooper Perry, Mr. Hall-Hall, and Mr. Comyns Berkeley.

Mr. Stanley stated that the idea of the College originated in a conversation he had with Miss Swift when discussing the varying standards of certificates given for amateur work in connection with nursing. Some examinations for home nursing certificates and First Aid certificates were very carefully conducted, in others they were a mere farce, and he was saying how necessary he considered it to have some kind of standardisation of certificates. Miss Swift told him that the need was felt not only in the lower but in the higher degrees, and she asked him to meet three or four Matrons of some of the leading training schools in order to discuss the subject. After two or three meetings he was asked to bring forward something in the nature of a scheme.

As a result of these discussions, with the help of Sir Cooper Perry, he wrote to all the Governing bodies of the hospitals and nurse training schools through the country and at the same time the letter was sent by Miss Swift and others to the Matrons of these hospitals.

After that they received various letters from societies supporting State Registration that they thought they ought to be consulted. Various discussions took place, which, speaking for himself as one who had newly come into this subject, were extremely interesting. It ended, at the last Conference in practical agreement amongst those present on the three fundamental principles of (1) State Registration, (2) a uniform curriculum, and (3) the one-portal—one standardized examination for entrance into the profession. These had now been discussed with the Council of the College of Nursing, and he had no hesitation in saying that they unanimously adopted those three cardinal principles as three of the objects which the College was formed to promote.

In addition to the Council, composed of 30 persons, it had been decided to form a Consultative Board and the real object of the meeting was to ask the assistance of those present in forming that Board. He hoped they would lay the proposal before those whom they represented on their return and then, if they agreed in principle with the proposals made that they would appoint representatives to attend another meeting in a month's time.

Mr. Stanley announced that Sir Cooper Perry had agreed to undertake temporarily the duties of Hon. Secretary, and that to start with there should be five committees: (1) Finance, (2) Establishment and General Purposes, (3) Con-

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