

## "A HYMN OF LOVE TO ENGLAND."

A song of hate is a song of Hell ;  
Some there be that sing it well.  
See them sing it loud and long.  
We lift our hearts to a loftier song ;  
We lift our hearts to Heaven above,  
Singing the glory of her we love—  
England !

Glory of thought and glory of deed,  
Glory of Hampden and Runnymede ;  
Glory of ships that sought far goals,  
Glory of swords and glory of souls !  
Glory of songs mounting as birds.  
Glory immortal of magical words ;  
Glory of Milton, glory of Nelson,  
Tragical glory of Gordon and Scott ;  
Glory of Shelley, glory of Sidney,  
Glory transcendent that perishes not—  
Hers is the story, hers be the glory,  
England !

Shatter her beauteous breast ye may ;  
The spirit of England none can slay !  
Dash the bomb on the dome of Paul's,  
Deem ye the fame of the Admiral falls ?  
Pry the stone from the chancel floor,  
Deem ye that Shakespeare shall live no more ?  
Where is the giant shot that kills  
Wordsworth walking the old green hills ?  
Trample the red rose on the ground—  
Keats is beauty while earth spins round !  
Bind her, grind her, burn her with fire,  
Cast her ashes into the sea ;  
She shall escape, she shall aspire,  
She shall arise to make men free !  
She shall arise in a sacred scorn,  
Lighting the lives that are yet unborn ;  
Spirit supernal ; splendour eternal,  
England !

—BY AN AMERICAN WOMAN.

## COMING EVENTS.

June 3rd.—Irish Nurses' Association: Meeting Executive Committee. 34, St Stephen's Green, Dublin, 8 p.m.

June 8th.—Society State Registration of Trained Nurses: Annual Meeting, West Lecture Hall, Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W. 4 p.m. After the meeting, tea at 2, Portland Place, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Walter Spencer.

June 14th.—Leicester and Leicestershire Midwives Association Meeting at Loughborough, by invitation of Nurse Warren. Address on "Serving Women" by Miss G. A. Rogers.

## A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"Work thou for pleasure. Paint or sing or carve  
The thing thou lovest, though the body starve.  
Who works for glory misses off the goal ;  
Who works for money coins his very soul ;  
Work for work's sake, then, and it may be  
That these things shall be added unto thee."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

## A FEW HOME TRUTHS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I have read with amazement in your issue of this week the letter signed "V.A.D." First, I should like to ask why these arrogant ladies call themselves V.A.D.'s? The V, I believe, stands for voluntary, whereas I believe they are all in the receipt of salaries.

In the letter the writer hopes she is neither snobbish nor insolent, the whole tone of her letter is distinctly so, and it can only have been written by one utterly ignorant of the ways and habits of the professionally trained nurse. If she could only ask some of the wounded and suffering men back from the Front what their feelings about the V.A.D.'s are, it would probably take some of the "insolent snobbishness"—I use her words—out of her.

Nothing could prove better, to the mind of a patient who has experience of both, the value of the professional trained nurse over the V.A.D. than "V.A.D.'s" letter.

Yours obediently,  
AN OLD SOLDIER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—May I, through the medium of your valuable JOURNAL, reply to "V.A.D."?

She seems to be under some misapprehension as to our claim for the inauguration of State Registration. It is not, to my knowledge, the registration of "Class" we need, but of "Capability." If one goes to a theatre to be entertained, one does not ask from whence the players came, but can they act. Is it not so with the Nursing profession? The one great point to be considered is whether the nurse has the technical knowledge and ability to carry on the science of Surgery and Medicine.

"V.A.D." is to be pitied and has yet much to learn if, from her few months' experience in Egypt, she has come to the conclusion that the trained nurse is a product of the slums. It is a bold assertion and a sweeping condemnation on such a noble profession. But we will be lenient with her, as her experience has been so limited. It is a pity that we have not all been afforded her apparently superior education which has evidently enabled her with such rapidity to understand and put into practice the knowledge which, up to the present time, the average probationer has taken three or four years to acquire. Personally, after eight years' experience, three of which have been spent in the Operating Theatre, I find how limited is the experience of a three years' training. Does

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