

and he will always be ignorant of mine. He is a wounded soldier, I am his chaplain. Not many words have passed between us, for besides other wounds his face and mouth are seriously hurt. After administering to him the last sacraments and praying with him, the Abbé made an act of resignation on his behalf. My joy was great when I heard him say to me, 'Monsieur le Curé, that is well.' They were his last words—and he is one of those who are thought to have lost the faith! Yesterday when I went back to the little room the bed was empty. In the little village cemetery prayers will be offered over him in the presence of a few peasants. What could be more simple; yet what more great?"

In a chapter headed "Atonement" he describes the last hours of a young soldier whose terrible injuries to his head had caused half of his brain to be exposed, and little by little paralysis spread over his whole body.

"In the last week he saw no one but myself. What precious times we had together! I would not have exchanged them for all the lessons of the greatest teachers in the world. Atonement, it was indeed there, in all its sadness and all its beauty, in the person of this gentle wounded boy of twenty, who had endured his terrible wound without complaint, and was now passing to his death so slowly, through the long days and longer nights, without breaking the silence except to say 'My God I love Thee!' once adding this one little word which shed a ray of pure light on the depths of his silence, 'My God I love Thee—*dearly!*'"

We can but think that this beautiful and simple record will fulfil the purpose for which it was written—that of bringing hope and comfort to many an aching and torn heart.

Truly he says: "The greatest life is not the longest, nor the most enjoyable, but the most intense, the richest, and the deepest. Such a life does not dwell in the house of laughter." He quotes as an example a nurse: "Happy is she (she belonged to our hospital) who inoculated herself secretly with the virus of gangrene caused by poisoned gas, in order that the doctors might study its evolution in a healthy organism, and so more successfully treat the condition, saying to them 'Now study it.'"

We should do well to lay to heart the final words of the book: "Let us not lose heart though the tempest rage."  
H. H.

#### COMING EVENTS.

November 17th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, Autumn meeting, Fulham Military Hospital. Inspection of wards, 3 to 3.45 p.m.; Meeting in Board Room, 4 p.m.; tea, 5 p.m.; concert in Y.M.C.A. Soldiers' Hut.

November 22nd.—League of St. John's House Nurses. General Meeting, St. John's House, 12, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, 3 p.m.

November 23rd.—National Council of Trained Nurses. Annual Meeting Grand Council, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 p.m. tea.

#### 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 GREAT MULTITUDE OF IGNORANT PERSONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—There is nothing new under the sun, and history has a trick of repeating itself. In the present day laymen would help to govern nurses. In the reign of Henry VIII laymen helped to govern "Physyke and surgerie." The King, in his Statute 3 Cap. II., said: "The science and connyng of physyke and surgerie, to the perfect knowledge wherof bee requisite bothe grete lernyng and ripe experience, ys daily within this Royalme exercised by a grete multitude of ignorant persones, of whom the grete partie have no maner of insight in the same nor in any other kynde of lernyng; some also can no lettres on the boke, soofarfurth that common artificers, as smythes, wevers, and women boldely and custumably take upon them grete curis and thyngys of grete difficultie, in the which they partely use sorcery and whichcrafte, partely applie such medecine unto the disease as be verey noyous and nothyng metely thereto, to the high displeasure of God." Consequently, everyone who may wish to practise in London or seven miles round, must submit to an examination before the bishop of the capital, or before the Dean of St. Paul's assisted by four doctors of "physyk." In the country the examination will take place before the bishop of the diocese or his vicar-general. But it was found that "in spite of the examination by the Bishop of London, the most parte of the persones of the saide crafte of surgeons have small coonning."

Perhaps it was because of the examination by the Bishop of London."

Yours truly,

SELF-GOVERNMENT.

#### MIDWIVES ON THE PRAIRIES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was much interested in the account of the meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association. The Hon. E. Akers Douglas said, "A very special class of women was needed" to be midwives in Canada, and if they are going to nurse women on the farms I think she is right.

A friend of mine married a farmer in Canada, and when her first child was born she had great difficulty in getting a nurse, although as she said, "I could afford, and was willing to pay any fee. The doctor in this district seldom comes more than twice—once for the birth, if he is lucky enough to get there in time, and once later on to see if you are all right. So you will understand that I wanted a midwife; a nurse who could not manage without

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