

gratitude, and a desire to give what financial help they can to the Homes.

The following extracts from letters are typical examples:—

A blinded officer, who has been left by the war with nothing in the world but the small Government pension attaching to the total loss of sight, writes:—"Hearty congratulations and best wishes for the complete success of your splendid work, the Edith Cavell Homes of Rest for Nurses. Enclosed please find 'my widow's mite,' and I trust the whole Army will respond to your appeal. Again wishing you every success in this noble cause."

From another officer:—"I beg to enclose cheque for the benefit of the Edith Cavell Homes of Rest for Nurses. I have myself had a good deal of experience of the nursing sisters' unremitting care and kindness, both during this war and that in South Africa, and I trust the Homes will prove a real benefit to these magnificent women."

A sergeant, R.A.M.C., sends all he can spare, with the following pathetic little letter:—"A soldier invalided from overseas forwards the enclosed donation in aid of the above-named institution with intense gratitude."

May I be permitted to hope, concludes the writer, that such expressions of kindly remembrance as these may induce some of your readers to remember the cause of the nurses whose work has called forth such gratitude."

A correspondent writes:—"Through the kindness and consideration of Sister D., who looks after me in my solitary old age, I have had the opportunity of making the acquaintance of your blind *protégée*, Nurse N., who has been staying at my house for the last few days, and I can conscientiously say that I have never seen a case more deserving of all the help she can get."

"Besides her almost total blindness, Nurse N. is a great sufferer from sciatica and other ailments, all of which she bears with the most admirable Christian fortitude and cheerfulness which, considering her poverty and suffering, are a noble example to everyone. She has returned to her home at Southend to-day, but I thought you would like to know that she is worthy of all your sympathy and of any further assistance that can be got for her."

We have to thank Sister D. and her most kind patient for the sympathy extended to the invalid nurse to whom the letter refers. Our readers have generously contributed 6s. a week for a year to make it possible for her to keep

her little home together, and if anyone would like to add a little Christmas Box, we shall have great pleasure in forwarding it to her.

We commend to the notice of those who are interested in the past history of Poor Relief a brochure by Mr. H. E. Wilkes, solicitor and clerk to the Stowmarket Board of Guardians, Suffolk, issued by the Suffolk Branch of the National Poor Law Officers' Association, and sold for the benefit of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

"The ancients," says the author, "credited [or debited] nearly every evil to the will of the Lord, war and plague and earthquakes and disease and famine and poverty. . . . So when typhus slew her daughter the village wife imitated Job."

Fur hoffsens we talkt o' my darter as died of the fever at fall:
And I thow't 'twur the will o' the Lord, but Miss Annie she said it wur draains.

"That view makes a world of difference, for you can alter the drains: you cannot change the will of the Lord or a law of nature. Where our forefathers used to call in the priest and order the coffin, we send for the doctor, the sanitary inspector, and the builder. Prevention is better than cure, and cure better than resignation, and even more religious. So modern thinkers and reformers begin to regard poverty as they regard smallpox or war. They consider it is in a large measure an avoidable or remediable evil, due to human sin or human folly: and they are not satisfied merely to relieve the poor, they desire to prevent poverty or cure it."

Amongst the items in ancient accounts, "Beer for the nusses" was a very common and rather expensive one.

The old records of the Stowmarket Guardians show that the discipline enforced was strict. Children over twelve, guilty of disrespectful behaviour, were condemned to wear a jacket with yellow sleeves, and to lose one meal every day. "Persons convicted of lying" were set on stools in the most public place in the dining-room, and papers placed on their breasts bearing the words "Infamous Liar," and an inmate begging from a visitor was placed in the stocks. Even the nurses going out without the leave of the Governor or Matron were "severely punished," but how is not recorded. The booklet, price 6½d., may be obtained from Mr. Oliver C. Jones (Master of the Workhouse), Lattice Barn, Ipswich; it cannot fail to be of interest to poor law nurses.

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