

"THE REST OF A LABOURING MAN IS SWEET."

IN MEMORIAM.

By the death of Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., LL.D., whilst on active service at Amara, Mesopotamia, a most distinguished and brilliant member of the medical profession has passed away, and trained nurses have lost one of the best friends they possessed. The sad news has been received by many members of the nursing profession not only with profound sorrow, but with a sense of personal loss; the passing of a great man must always strike home whether we have any immediate concern with him or not, but our regret for Sir Victor Horsley is personal and intimate, and never since the ever-lamented death of Miss Isla Stewart, of honoured memory, has the nursing profession sustained so great a blow.

His sure clarity of thought and vision led him to realize that nurses had not sufficient solidarity, just as the medical profession lacked it until it obtained legal status, and, with great generosity, he made time in a life already crowded with professional engagements and work for social reform, to support their claim for the organisation of their profession by the State. He gave evidence in its support before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Nurses' Registration, on behalf of the British Medical Association in 1905, and as one of the delegates of that Association on the Central Committee did splendid service in helping to draft its comprehensive Bill. He accepted the position of Vice-President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and was a well-known and welcome figure on the platform at its conferences and meetings. Moreover, when visiting busy provincial centres for other purposes, he took pains to arrange to address meetings on the subject of State Registration.

A fearless and daring surgeon, he was no less fearless in his moral character, and in his outlook

on humanity. If he believed that a cause was righteous he was ready to champion it and to make personal sacrifices for his principles. His outspoken support of the Women's Suffrage cause and of total abstinence probably cost him a seat in Parliament, yet those of his friends who most wished to see him there, knowing how men of such high calibre are needed, could only admire the generous and single-minded purpose which inspired him.

On the formation of the Territorial Force he became a member of the medical staff of the Third London General Hospital. In May of last year was placed in charge of the surgical division of No. 21 General Hospital, with the temporary rank of Major in the R.A.M.C., and embarked for Egypt that month. In March last, when he became aware of the bad conditions prevailing in Mesopotamia he volunteered for service there, and his patriotic offer was accepted. Even in this time of unprecedented stress, amid climatic conditions which were soon to cost him his life, his active interest in the cause of State Registration of Nurses was maintained. His cablegram to the annual meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses last month is evidence of this, and only a week before his death we received a letter from him full of comments and advice on matters relating to the interests of nurses.

Death is taking heavy and bitter toll of the brave and the true. Outstanding amongst

them, nurses will always cherish the memory of Sir Victor Horsley, noble-minded, sympathetic and generous, whose eloquent tongue, ready pen, and personal help were always at the service of righteous causes, and who has died as he lived—a patriot whom success never spoiled loved by many and honoured by all.

It takes a soul
To move a body; it takes a high-souled man
To move the masses, even to a cleaner sty.
It takes the ideal to blow a hair's breadth off
The dust of the actual.



THE LATE COLONEL SIR VICTOR HORSLEY,
F.R.C.S., F.R.S., LL.D.

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