

"We are in bell tents at the foot of the mountains.

"The snow is gradually creeping down the hills. We get up before the sun, and this morning (December 13th) it was bitterly cold—our first touch of frost."

M. G. S. writes to the *Dundee Advertiser* :—

"I read with interest some little time ago that a question had been asked in the House of Commons about the hardships (?) endured by the V.A.D.s of the Dundee War Hospital. I read about it with much interest and considerable astonishment. The 'discomforts' consisted in their sharing with one other nurse most comfortable, completely furnished bedrooms in a first-class hotel, with all expenses paid for them, and their having to journey to their work in a tramway car (which expense, I understand, is now also defrayed by the authorities). Also I noticed a complaint as to the meagreness of their salaries. Well, I always understood the 'V' in V.A.D. stood for 'voluntary,' and that therefore the £20 per annum kindly paid them by those in authority was merely to defray any expenses their work might lead them into. Personally I think the Dundee War Hospital V.A.D.s may congratulate themselves on the arrangements made for their comfort, and if they inquire amongst their fellows throughout Scotland they will get proof of it. As a contrast, here's a picture of the conditions under which we Army Sisters and V.A.D.s lived in a hospital I worked in in France :—Our bedrooms, measuring 12 ft. by 10 ft., were shared by three nurses or Sisters, as the case might be; curtains were hung between our beds, and space being extremely limited a soldier's (hospital) locker each was our entire furniture. I was the envy of the hospital because I converted a packing-case into a wardrobe, and let out pegs to the less fortunate—incidentally in our crowded moments the wardrobe had to be moved across the door to leave more room. It wasn't luxurious, but it was rather fun, and all in the way of war. These luxurious quarters were shared alike by V.A.D.s and Sisters, the only difference being that the Sisters received salaries, and the equally hard-working V.A.D.s paid our directrice 35s. 6d. per week for board and lodging, and extra for their washing."

AN EXAMPLE.

Here's an example from
A butterfly;
That on a rough, hard rock
Happy can lie;
Friendless and all alone
On this unsweetened stone.

Now let my bed be hard,
No care take I;
I'll make my joy like this
Small butterfly;
Whose happy heart has power
To make a stone a flower.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

By command of Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, President of the Corporation, a special general meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association will be held in the Lecture Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on Thursday, January 18th, 1917, at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting is summoned to consider the proposed amalgamation of the College of Nursing, Ltd., with the Association, when the following resolution will be moved :—

"That the Agreement, dated 21st day of December, 1916, for the Amalgamation of the College of Nursing, Ltd., with the Association be confirmed; and that, subject to new Bye-Laws being approved by the Privy Council, the Bye-Laws of the 10th day of June, 1898, shall be annulled."

The Agreement to which are appended forms of the proposed Supplemental Charter and Bye-Laws, is printed in the *Nurses' Journal* for January, 1917, and has been sent with the notice of the meeting to all members of the R.B.N.A.

For the benefit of the nursing profession generally, we this week publish the Agreement and the proposed Supplemental Charter.

We do not propose in this issue to review at length the question of amalgamation between these two Bodies; suffice it to say that the proposed Agreement is a compromise, whereby the Profession of Nursing both gains and loses.

THE GAINS.

The gains may be assessed :—

(1) That after a quarter of a century the opposition of the managers of the majority of the large Nurse Training Schools to the principle of State Registration of Nurses has been abandoned, and their representatives grouped in the College of Nursing, Ltd., are now prepared to amalgamate with the Royal British Nurses' Association—founded by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and a few Matrons in 1887 to organize trained nurses and "provide for their registration"—and to "promote or otherwise take steps to obtain an Act of Parliament for the Registration of Nurses and the keeping of a Register or Registers of Nurses," so that the uncompromising opposition of the managers of these Nursing Schools can no longer be advanced in Parliament against the principle of State Registration, to further obstruct this long-delayed and very urgent reform, when a Bill for this purpose is under consideration. How important a gain this is can only be estimated when we read the "Memorial of Nurse Training School Authorities," sent for publication in this journal in 1889, signed by all the important officials at St. Thomas' Hospital, from the Treasurer to the Home Sister,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)