

the nurse newly awakened to the possibilities of unlimited self-sacrifice when the war is over? Will she be content with a lesser ideal? Doubtless many will, but to those who have felt the joy of sacrifice, and the giving of one's skill and service to meet a universal need at this time, an appeal surely will not come amiss to them to use their influence in a still wider and more needy sphere, namely, in that of the Mission Field. It has been found during the war that the number of trained nurses has been inadequate for the pressure of work to be done. In the Mission Field the numbers have never been adequate to the needs of the work, not because the work is deadly monotonous or poorer than one gets at home, but that it means going further afield, and in many cases working under more difficult conditions than are ordinarily met with in Europe. In France there are few nurses who would not gladly welcome any order that would bring them within touch of the advanced positions in the field, no matter what difficulties had to be overcome.

Medical Mission Stations represent many an advanced post, where the need of skilled nursing is greater than in any Western town. Countless numbers of women and children of other nations suffer needlessly in time of sickness for lack of skilled attention, someone to comfort and help them through difficult times amidst the ignorance and superstition of their native practices and neglect.

After the example which the non-Christian nations have had of the spirit of so-called Christian nations, is it not a great opportunity, given to us as trained nurses, to give our skill and service to help them to realize that real Christianity is something which makes its followers try to help and uplift those in distress? If a thousandth part of the nurses who have been doing military nursing abroad during the war were ready to offer for this work in more distant lands, what might not be accomplished in helping to bring about that spirit of universal brotherhood and peace among the nations for which we all long.

We are asked to make known that two fully qualified nurses are needed for the Hospital in connection with the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong, India. A very important part of the work consists of the training of Indian girls as nurses. All particulars can be obtained from Miss Richardson, 52, Lower Sloane Street, S.W.

We hear that Miss Mayers is satisfied with the progress of the Imperial Nurses' Club. The bedrooms are greatly in request.

NURSING PROBLEMS AND OBLIGATIONS.*

It will not be easy to do full justice to this book, which, in our humble opinion, is of the greatest educational value (using the word education in its most comprehensive sense—" *Preparation for complete living* "). It is an arresting book—one which must not be "swallowed," as Bacon says, but rather "chewed and digested."

It comprises a series of talks to Nurses, which the writer inscribes to the memory of her mother, who, she says, "gave me this motto—'To be, not to seem.'"

The concentrated essence of the substance of the book is pithily presented to the readers by Richard C. Cabot, the distinguished physician on the visiting Staff of the Hospital, in the preface:—"What she here records is well founded, because it is a transcript of what any honest, intelligent Nurse finds written into her life by the successes and failures of her work. When she and others have followed the path described in this book, things have gone right; otherwise wrong."

Miss Parsons' method of heading each chapter with an apt quotation from high Authorities, in order to focus the attention and interest of the reader, is of great value, as it serves the purpose of a short prologue, and *should* induce the intelligent Nurse to study the books whence the quotations are drawn. In the Introduction, great stress is laid upon this as a *necessity*. Nurses are strongly recommended to study Nursing History, and biographies and autobiographies of pioneer Nurses, not alone for their historical value, but also for their great ethical value to the student Nurse. The special books recommended are, of course, first, "A History of Nursing," by Nutting & Dock; "The Life of Florence Nightingale," by Sir Edward Cook; "The Reminiscences of America's First Trained Nurse," an Autobiography by Linda Richards; and "Under the Red Flag," by Mabel Boardman. The writer speaks in terms of reverent gratitude of the work of pioneers.

The Introduction is not the least interesting part of the book, for it depicts the mind of the authoress, which is broad, receptive, and hospitable; and with it she digs a deep and strong foundation for the educational structure of the nurse in training. She has a clear vision of all that a Nurse ought to know, to do, and to be. "The aim of the Superintendent," she says, "should be to have the Nurses so alive to the vital things of life, and to their debt to the workers who have preceded them, that, for their own part in life's service, they will seek the work in which they can do the most good, and the people with whom they can best solve some of life's problems."

The book is divided into two distinct parts.

* By Sara E. Parsons, R.N., Superintendent of the Training School for Nurses, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston.

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