

Several "pioneers" were here broken on the wheel. Dirt, damp, dullness, depression!

What came ye out for to see?

Surely not all these broken men, suffering with chronic and uninteresting diseases! Coughing and spitting—rheumatism—tuberculosis—nerve wrecks! And the smell of stables—and the slush and mud! And why batter one's cranium against a stone wall of ignorance, and indifference, and self-satisfaction? Why indeed? Is not War red and glorious, warm and exhilarating—something to which an ardent spirit can respond?

It may be so.

But somewhere it is written, "the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all."

* * *

For many months past Sisters Gaudin and McLoughlin have worked at Hôpital No. 24, and they showed us with pleasurable satisfaction many of the improvements which have been effected. In the wards the equipment was very simple, but they were clean and comfortable—a haven of rest after the trenches—and the men were apparently very well content.

The Med. Chef received us with much courtesy and kindness. Like the majority of French doctors, he is a man of science, and we found him in his laboratory, engaged in research work of deep interest and professional value.

Later we were shown the nice little rooms of the Sisters, both characteristically arranged, and in spite of hard times we enjoyed "a lovely tea" in Sister Gaudin's sanctum. It was quite apparent that these nurses were the right sort, and that their happiness and satisfaction in their work, which is greatly esteemed, was largely due to the admirable spirit which inspired it, and that they were endowed with the fine staying power which is the greatest asset of our race.

When we came again into the courtyard the rain had ceased. In the near distance the hills were defined in a pale transparency brilliant as aquamarine, great purple clouds hung above the golden light of the setting sun, amazingly beautiful and exquisite.

Once more in our stalwart ambulance of Tank-like temperament, we had time for just a peep at Sister Denson at the Caserne Abbé, a neurological centre, where nursing of the most intelligent order is required, and where she finds a sympathetic environment.

Then to dinner of most excellent quality at

our little inn, where we were served by the quaintest of *garçons*, with superb contempt for the crockery, who went to bed at cock-crow and was playing the rôle of *femme de chambre* at dawn.

E. G. F.

GIVE THEM JUSTICE, GIVE THEM FREEDOM.

Say, Mesdames with heavy purses,
Keen to patronize our Nurses,
Who called on *you* to carry round the hat?
There's very slight disparity
Twixt patronage and charity,
And none of them is clamouring for *that*.

They are independent bodies,
With no room for mere Tom-noddies,
Nor worshippers of Midas in their ranks.
And they claim the fine possession
Of a *right* in their Profession
To do their bit without insulting "thanks."

Can you not perceive the beauty
Of the gladly rendered duty
And share in England's need they undertake?
It may strike you as quite funny
They're not haggling for "big money,"
Like greedy profiteers upon the make!

They repudiate black-legging,
But they do not go a-begging
To cadge for alms from anybody's hands.
Give them *justice*, give them *freedom*,
Lives with liberty to lead 'em
As self-respecting womanhood demands.

Give your alms, give your oblations,
To the stricken of all nations
At grips with Hohenzollern and his crew;
But, remember, kindly ladies
That in fighting powers of Hades
Nurses claim an equal privilege with you.
C. B. M.

MODERN BABY WELFARE.

A provisional committee has been formed in London, with Lord Plunket as Chairman, the object of which is to take an active part in the infant welfare campaign; and it will have the advice and assistance of Dr. Truby King, the founder of the Royal New Zealand Society for the Health of Women and Children, who has been granted eighteen months' leave of absence for this purpose. The committee are starting a Babies' Hospital outside London, where trained nurses will be able to obtain special training in modern baby welfare; and also a home of twenty cots in London, with course of instruction for Health Visitors.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)