

thirty. Or if you are married to a man who has the L.G.B. qualification. The nurses on institution staffs will not have the Vote, but all those outside, living in rooms they furnish themselves as tenants, will. Thus many private, school, district, and civil nurses can qualify—and, of course, all heads of Nursing Homes. We know quite a number of nurses who intend to become citizens—and they have reason. They will gain in self-respect and in the respect of others. A vote will add greatly to the responsibility of life, and must be used as a sacred trust for the benefit of the community, and not for personal benefit. Thus when using it to further the uplifting of our profession, let us keep in view how State Registration is going to benefit the public. It will do so by making nursing a highly efficacious instrument in preventing sickness, and in maintaining a high standard of health—in bringing comfort to those who suffer, mentally and physically, and in making the trained nurse an expert friend of mankind.

When Miss Anna C. Maxwell received the Hon. Degree of Columbia University, New York, at its 163rd Annual Commencement, the *American Journal of Nursing* records that, in presenting the degree, President Butler spoke of Miss Maxwell as one who had for more than thirty-five years given talent, knowledge, and high devotion to the training of nurses, and of nursing as taking a most important place in modern life. Ten graduates of the course in Nursing and Health received their B.S. degree, and one her Master's.

A MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, replying to Major Chapple (Stirlingshire, L.), who asked whether a Commission would be set up charged with the duty of consolidating all existing laws affecting questions of public health, in anticipation of the establishment of a Ministry of Health, said:—The Government do not consider that any advantage would be derived from setting up such a Commission.

Sir W. Collins (Derby, L.): Have the Government decided to establish a Ministry of Health? The Chancellor of the Exchequer: No, Sir. For that reason we thought it desirable that the first step should be taken before the second.

Notwithstanding the retirement of Mrs. Tennant and Miss Markham from the National Service Department the Women's Section will be continued. The subtraction of the Women's Military Auxiliary is regarded by a contemporary as a score for the Labour Ministry.

A GROUP OF WAR BOOKS.

The War has been responsible for many books representing the views and experiences of various classes of workers.

"TALES OF A CASUALTY CLEARING STATION,"* by a Royal Field Leech gives a matter-of-fact account of his work among the wounded. Here is a terrible picture of one night's experience:—

"The platform in the goods shed used in peacetime for laying luggage on served as a dressing-table for the more serious cases.

"The reek of blood, the cries of those for whom morphia could not be the only help, rent the air.

"A chaplain could not dress wounds, but he could fetch and carry, and he did. A Highlander, his kilt rolled up under his head for a pillow, called out incessantly for water; a guardsman, with magnificent courage, faced death from a frightful wound without a murmur during all the hours of that dreadful night. The latter said quietly he supposed that his day had come and that it was no use complaining; his wife and children were somewhere in Chelsea. Here one moaned for water, some, more knowledgeable, begged for opium."

It is well for those who stay at home to read such a book as this, "Lest we forget."

Again he says: "To the inexperienced, the physical condition of the soldier carried direct from the battlefield to the dressing station is unbelievable. Grimed with mud, unwashed for weeks, his clothes infested with vermin, and his feet glued to his boots, he is still a hero. With set teeth, and fingers gripping to the sides of the stretcher, he faces the tortures of wound-probing and fracture setting with a pluck that only comes of heredity. Few fail."

This book is full of interest and carries weight by reason of its sober tone.

"WITH THE RUSSIAN WOUNDED" † is a translation from the Russian. It is especially interesting at this time, as we are told in the preface that Madame Alexinsky, a Russian doctor and a Socialist, at the outset of the war hesitated whether she should take part in it.

Her experiences at the Front convinced her that only those who understand nothing about affairs can hesitate whether to take part or not. The book abounds with characteristic little sketches.

She quotes a letter received from one who had been a somewhat refractory patient.

"The writer is Serguein Fedorof, the one who would not wear a cold bandage. We are well looked after here. There are a lot of nurses, all young and attentive. We can't find a better name for them than little cherubim."

There is a touching description of two Russian women who arrived with the stretchers that bore their husbands.

* "Tales of a Casualty Clearing Station," by a Royal Field Leech. Blackwood & Sons.

† "With the Russian Wounded," by Tartiana Alexinsky. Fisher Unwin.

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