

She immediately read out my instructions and looked at me. "You understand my orders?"

"I fancy I do, but . . . how exactly does one mobilise?"

"You will tell every member of the detachment to be on duty in uniform at . . . what's the time, constable?"

"Close on five o'clock, ma'am."

"I made a hurried calculation, but Mrs. Holmes did not flinch.

"At 6 a.m." she continued. "That will give you an hour; an hour, m'yes, to dress, to have a cup of tea, to get there; quite sufficient, quite."

Mrs. Holmes prepared an elaborate address of welcome for "Our British Soldiers," which she read over at length to her orderly.

"She was interrupted by loud barking from 'Cromwell.' One of the nurses rushed to the office.

"Oh! they have come."

"For an instant, when I looked at the convoy, I was puzzled; then the truth dawned upon me. They were Belgians!

"I looked at Mrs. Holmes, and saw that she was carrying her address of welcome. I could see that she was trying to speak, but no words would come. I did not know whether I wanted to laugh or cry.

"At this supreme moment, however, I trod on the dog."

H. H.

REQUIEM.

Pour out your light, O stars, and do not hold
Your loveliest shining from earth's outworn
shell—

Pure and cold your radiance, pure and cold
My dead friend's face as well.

"Severn and Somme."

By Ivor Gurney.

COMING EVENTS.

March 7th.—Royal British Nurses' Association Lecture, "Irish Bulls," Sir Edward Sullivan. Chair—Miss M. Thurston, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, New Zealand Expeditionary Force. 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 2.45 p.m.

March 14th.—Royal British Nurses' Association Lecture, "Formation of Character," Sir Dyce Duckworth. Chair—H.R.H. the Princess Christian. 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 2.45 p.m.

March 16th.—Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses. Annual Meeting. Armitage Hall, 228, Great Portland Street (by kind permission of the National Institute for the Blind). 3 p.m.

March 21st.—Central Midwives Board. Monthly Meeting. Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, Westminster, S.W. 3.30 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

THE SUBJUGATION OF THE NURSING PROFESSION—BROKEN PLEDGES AT LIVERPOOL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Is one of the effects of the war the losing of the British sense of fair play? I hope not, but I have been struck with some incidents lately at Liverpool. As most people know, there is a strong difference of opinion in the nursing profession on the question of the methods by which the profession should be organized. For the purposes of this letter, I can say that the College of Nursing, Ltd., represents one side, and the Royal British Nurses' Association the other. A meeting was arranged and took place at Liverpool some little time ago, at which the College of Nursing set forth its view and had every opportunity of answering questions put by the audience. At the suggestion of one or two open-minded individuals, a meeting was then arranged and representatives of the R.B.N.A. (which opposes the College) were invited to come from London and put their case. So far good. But the meeting began by the chairman giving a distinct bias in favour of the opposing society (the College), and then when the time came for the speaker to answer questions and she rose to do so, the chairman informed her that there was no time and that the meeting was closed.

And that is not all. During the course of the address, the R.B.N.A. speaker challenged the British Women's Hospital Committee, which is raising a fund to endow the College, to answer certain questions, and a definite pledge was given by a lady in the audience who is one of the College speakers that these questions should be answered at the second meeting to be held in favour of the College at Liverpool on the 22nd inst. Owing to this promise (of which a reminder was sent in good time to the speaker concerned), the secretary of the R.B.N.A. took the long journey again from London to Liverpool, at great inconvenience, in order to repeat her questions and obtain her answer. The Lord Mayor, who was to have presided, had been informed of what had taken place, and that these questions would be asked. As the meeting was drawing to a close and no opportunity had been given, a note was sent to the chairman, explaining that a lady representing the R.B.N.A. had come from London on purpose to receive the promised answer. In violation of the most ordinary tenets of fair play, the chairman refused to accede to the request, and, in spite of protests, closed the meeting.

What sense of justice has Liverpool shown?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)