

it comes to mother, I'm weak-kneed. If I leave her out, Fancy, 'tis because I know what's tearing her—the thought of the graves in the churchyard. 'Taint in mother as 'tis in you to stand hand-in-hand with me and forget her dear self."

Susan Yellam's faith was not strong enough to support her in those terrible days of the war and now, and Fancy would be vouchsafed a glimpse at an indurated heart. She had noticed that Mrs. Yellam avoided any direct reference to the Deity, Whose name had been so often on her lips before the war.

"One day Fancy said:

"God will be with Alfred."

Mrs. Yellam said quickly—

"He be wi' the Kayser too, seemin'ly."

She no longer discussed the sermon which had been her favourite mental exercise. One that made a special appeal to her she dismissed with—

"'Twas a notable sermon, but he ain't been tried as I have."

It was after the news came that "Alfred" was missing that his child was born. Mrs. Yellam tells her brother Habbakuk—

"She be low, but I be fightin' for her. Oh! there's so little of her—and no milk for the baby."

"Lard preserve her dear life!"

Susan frowned.

"'Tis milk that be wanted."

"You be right. Bottle babies suffer crool wi' colic."

"Not if I wash the bottles. Fancy have chosen the names. 'Tis queer Fancy keeps on a-sayin' to me, 'Alfred'll come back!'"

"Maybe he will, maybe he won't. Parson be prayin' in church for Alfred. 'Twould seem more respectful if you joined in wi' your loud voice."

At once Mrs. Yellam's face hardened.

"I bide at home till Alfred comes back."

Fancy's frail body slipped its moorings before the baby was many days old, and at her death she who had always been something of a seer had a vision of Alfred.

"I hear you as plain as plain. You had to come for both our sakes—mother's and mine. And such a night! You ain't a bit wet neither. Afraid, Alfie? With you holding me as tight as tight. Oh, no!"

Susan Yellam heard a trickle of laughter. After that Fancy sighed twice, and her small body relaxed.

In Alfred's child, Susan Yellam recovered her soul.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

October 19th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Meeting Charing Cross Hospital, 3.15 p.m. Tea, 4.15.

October 24th.—Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting Executive Committee, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 p.m.

October 26th.—Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. Meeting, Council Chamber, British Medical Association, 429, Strand, London, W.C. 2.30 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.

PRECEDENCE FOR "THE MAN IN BLUE."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I be allowed to remark on a small writing which appeared in the JOURNAL of September 21st, and say how truly disgraceful I think it is that any woman should remark adversely upon "A man in blue" offering a Territorial his seat, and she accepting the same?

I take it that the man in question would be well on the way to recovery before being allowed to be absent from hospital and take rides on 'buses.

Probably the "elderly woman" had never done a day's work in her life, and very probably not sacrificed any comfort, &c., during the present crisis, or endured any hardships, whereas the nurse has more than likely stood on her feet for the best part of the past four years, not taking into consideration her previous hard life, viz., "her training."

Yours truly,

A TERRITORIAL NURSE ON ACTIVE SERVICE, ITALIAN FRONT.

[The following is the "par" to which our correspondent takes exception:—

"Recently in a crowded motor-bus two wounded soldiers rose politely from their seats to offer them to two women, one in nursing uniform, who promptly took the place without even a word of thanks. The other, an elderly woman, exclaimed 'No, not the seat of a man in blue. We ought to stand for you.' We should have supposed that the nurse was merely one of the many women who don our uniform without the right to wear it; but alas! her uniform was that of the Territorial Force Nursing Service."

We cannot believe that the above member of the T.F.N.S. expresses the feelings or opinions of her colleagues. We feel sure that with very few exceptions, our military nurses would promptly offer their seats in any vehicle to "the man in blue." Personally we constantly elbow the pushing public aside at 'bus stopping stations so that the "man in blue," often weak and crippled, shall have the first chance of a seat inside. "Wounded first, wounded first"—called out in no uncertain voice—generally brings the "bus hogs" to their senses. It is a pity conductors have not the right to give precedence to the "man in blue."—ED.]

COLLEGE OFFICIALS SHOULD STUDY NURSING HISTORY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was recently at a meeting in support of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and should like to have corrected several of Miss Cowlin's statements, but evidently we were only there to listen and agree. Miss Cowlin said: "Had such an organization as the College of Nursing existed before 1914, it would have been possible

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)