

IN FLANDERS' FIELDS.

BY LT.-COL. JOHN D. McCRAE.

(Written during the second battle of Ypres, 1915. The author, Dr. John D. McCrae, of Montreal, Canada, was killed in Flanders, January 28, 1918.)

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amidst the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe!
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch. Be yours to hold it high!
If you break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' fields.

AMERICA'S ANSWER.

BY R. W. LILLARD.

(Written after the death of Lt.-Col. McCrae, author of "In Flanders' Fields," and printed in the New York Evening Post.)

Rest ye in peace, ye Flanders' dead.
The fight that ye so bravely led
We've taken up. And we will keep
True faith with you who lie asleep,
With each a cross to mark his bed,
And poppies blowing overhead,
Where once his own lifeblood ran red;
So let your rest be sweet and deep
In Flanders' fields.

Fear not that ye have died for naught.
The torch ye threw to us we caught,
Ten million hands will hold it high,
And Freedom's light shall never die.
We've learned the lesson that ye taught
In Flanders' fields.

COMING EVENTS.

March 27th.—Nurses' Missionary League: A Quiet Day, St. Mary Woolnoth, Lombard Street, E.C. 8.0 a.m.; 10.30 to 12; and 3.0 to 4.30 p.m.

March 28th.—Scottish Nurses' Club: Lecture on "Orthopædics," by Dr. Parry, 205, Bath Street, Glasgow. 7.30 p.m.

March 29th.—Scottish Nurses' Club: Annual Meeting, 205, Bath Street, Glasgow. 3.0 p.m.

A GREAT EVENT.

March 28th.—House of Commons. Second reading of the Central Committee's Nurses' Registration Bill.

Nurses who want to be present should ask their members to ballot for places, as the Ladies' Gallery is now very crowded and there is no chance of being admitted without a ticket.

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 STATUS OF IRISH NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Miss Carson Rae's letter in your issue of the 8th does not cover the whole ground.

In the first place, it is evident that in these democratic days, in these dangerous days, some new method of dealing with the admittedly overwhelming grievances of the nurses and of the public who suffer through them is needed. We are at present, as regards associations of nurses, very much in the position of those who have "toiled all night and taken nothing." Our Irish Nurses' Association and our Irish Nursing Board have done well. They will, I hope, do better. But it does not appear to me that they can cover the ground which will be covered by the Trade Union of Irish Nurses. What we need now is to let down the net for the multitude of fishes.

The scope of a Nurses' Trades Union and the activities covered by it do not properly come, nor should they come, under the Irish Nursing Board. This is not a "fighting" but a registering, and educative, and a legislative body.

We need, to get our claims attended to—to compel attention—an overwhelming body from the rank and file, joined in very close bonds of brotherhood. It is unnecessary to begin to tell you, Madam, with your many years of sad experience, how difficult it is to bring that body together and to keep its members in touch.

Finance and organisation are the obvious prime necessities. Both have been generously offered to us by our fellow workers of the Irish Women Workers' Union—a non-sectarian, non-political body, and, to boot, they place at our command their hard-won experience. At the same time they have no thought of interfering with our self-government. Our nurses will have absolute control of their own Union, subject, of course, to the accustomed financial arrangements with headquarters.

It seems to me that we should be mad to miss this opportunity. Nor shall we miss it.

I am sorry that anyone should attempt to confuse the issue by suggesting—what was expressly, as I understand, denied at the meeting held—that a strike of waitresses would entail a strike of nurses. There is much to be learned by the general public in regard to trade unions, their educative work and their teaching of self-reliance. I always feel sorry when I find a person of intelligence blundering up against the one word *strike*, as though the great aims of unions were not just our common aims in the forward section of the nursing profession, the betterment of the

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