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EDITORIAL.

TRUSTY AND BELOVED.

In the Debate which took place on the Women's Emancipation Bill, introduced by Mr. Adamson, Leader of the Labour Party in the House of Commons, on April 4th, the tribute paid to the members of our profession by Captain W. Elliott, member for Lanark, was one to stir the pulses and to move every nurse to strive towards a still higher plane.

In expressing the opinion that the disqualification that stands against women holding military, as well as civil and judicial, appointments should be removed, Captain Elliott said:—"It may seem ridiculous to hon. members, but I would point out that by the present Constitution, and even by the proposed amendment to be made by this Bill, a woman is incapable of holding the commission of His Majesty. I should like to say, on behalf of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and the people who have been at the war, that there was nothing that struck us more clearly than the fact that Canada, Australia, and the whole British Empire granted commissions to their nurses, but these commissions were denied them by our Army constitution. It seems to me that that is the most ridiculous thing that could possibly be imagined. I remember a lady, a most respected nurse, a woman with twenty years, in fact a generation, of experience, who was subordinate in rank and had to defer to the office of a little pip-squeak of a single-star lieutenant whom, five or ten years previously, she would have spanked and sent to bed.

"Equal pay for equal work is a good maxim, but it should carry with it equal honour for equal work, and that should be one of the maxims of the future; and it made one

ashamed of any decorations one might happen to carry when one realized that the nurses who had gone through a bombing raid in hospital—and anything worse than a bombing raid in a military hospital is still to be imagined—only get non-commissioned rank and medals. . . . I do think that if there was one class of women who were entitled above all others to the utmost honour we could possibly give, it was our women doctors and nurses, especially on the Western Front."

Captain Elliott also said that if anything could nerve him to go on when he despaired about the future of the race it was the thought of what our women had endured in this war. "One can say," he said, "nothing finer about the fighting men of England than that they proved themselves worthy mates of such women as our nurses, and one can say nothing finer about our nurses than that they have shown themselves to be fit mates of our soldiers and mothers of the Imperial race of Britain. But we do not get this any further forward by saying to these women, 'Whatever your qualifications or standard, you remain perpetually in the non-commissioned ranks. You are not worthy to be recommended as trusty and well beloved of His Majesty.' . . . I do wish that this might be so, for none are more trusty, and none are more worthy to be well beloved. . . . I do think it shows a lamentable lack of a realisation of where the heroism of our country lies, that people should bring forward a Bill to remove the disqualification of women lawyers, and judges, and should omit to remove the disqualification of our women serving in the Armies, who are, I think, the very flower of our British womanhood."

Captain Elliott said further that he was at present working in a campaign against tuber-

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