

THE PASSING BELL.

A NATIONAL LOSS TO AMERICA.

This month's *American Journal of Nursing* contains the sad news of the death of Miss Jane A. Delano, R.N., which took place at Saveney, France:—

"Miss Delano, in her position as chief of the Nursing Department of the Red Cross," says the *American Journal*, "has rendered the greatest service of any woman in this country which has had for its object the winning of the war. Her department was the only branch of Government service that was ready when war was declared, we have been told. For nearly ten years, Miss Delano had given gratuitous service to the Red Cross as the representative of the American Nurses' Association, and her hours were as long as are those of the humblest clerk, while her responsibilities were as great as those of an ambassador."

Miss Delano maintained the highest professional standard, making her department an example to Red Cross Societies all over the world.

Miss Delano was a graduate of Bellevue Hospital, New York, and later, after having held several minor positions, she was superintendent of Bellevue Hospital. Her interest in the Red Cross came from her experiences in a yellow fever epidemic in Florida, where she served as a volunteer under Clara Barton, then head of the Red Cross. She was at the head of the American Army Nurse Corps at the time of her appointment as chief of the Red Cross Nursing Service, and held both positions for a period of three years. She was president of the American Nurses' Association from 1909 to 1911. She was without doubt one of the most widely known and universally respected of superintendents in America.

During the Memorable Meeting of the International Council of Nurses, which was held in London in 1909, Miss Delano made a deep impression on her colleagues in Europe, and it was at a delightful luncheon party, given by the then American Ambassador, the late Mr. Whitelaw Reid, that Miss Delano's special fitness for the superintendence of the American Army Nurse Corps was recognised and advocated.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING offers deep sympathy to the American Nurses' Association at this irreparable loss—the greatest sustained by the nursing world during the war.

"That all this restless rush, this strain and strife

This noise and clash, is but the fan farade
That ushers in the more majestic life,

When faith shall walk with science unafraid,
To feel the strong vibrations of the earth,

To sense the coming of the hour sublime,
And bless the star that watched above your birth
And let you live in this important time."

OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

BRITISH WOMEN VISIT BATTLEFIELDS AT THE INVITATION OF THE MAYOR OF LILLE.

DEAR EDITOR,—I thought you might like to hear a few of our experiences during the eight days we were in France.

We were a party of twenty women, chosen to represent various departments of life, and I felt very lucky to be included in the number.

We had an uneventful journey to Paris, where we stayed the night, but our journey next day from Paris to Lille was full of events. When near Bapaume, a delayed-action German mine exploded on the railway line, and had our train been ten minutes sooner our journey and our lives would have ended rather suddenly.

We waited there for a long time, while passengers took the opportunity to get out and collect souvenirs from the battle-field.

We then had to go back as far as Amiens, and travel round by a very long route *via* Abbeville, Montreuil, Arras and Douai; and at Arras, our engine ran off the line, and we had another long wait.

We found plenty to interest us on the way. We passed Albert and Courcellette—both in ruins—miles of devastated blackened country with not a living tree or sign of life anywhere, full of shell-holes, dug-outs, and masses of debris lying about, barbed wire, old iron, shell cases, being sorted and tidied up by the Chinese Labour Company. We saw fields of tanks; also very many cemeteries with their little wooden crosses, and many solitary graves, and until it got too dark for us to see, the way was full of interest.

We finally reached Lille at midnight instead of midday. We stayed at the Hotel de l'Europe, in which the Kaiser stayed when in Lille; but though two of the party slept in the room he occupied, he did not haunt their dreams! We noticed that every bit of brass, electric light fittings, handles to the chest of drawers in our bedrooms, had been taken away by the Germans before they left.

The next day we were received by the Mayor, who welcomed us; and Lady Brittain, who was in charge of the party, made a charming speech expressing the admiration of all present for the faith and endurance shown by the women of France, who had suffered such unspeakable hardships at the hands of their brutal invaders. And from the gentlemen connected with the civic life of the town we heard many sad tales about our British prisoners (of whom there were 350 in Lille), and of the cruel way they were treated during the four years of German occupation. We also heard with gratitude never to be forgotten how they helped and fed our prisoners at the risk of heavy punishment to themselves. Notwithstanding this, many died of hardship and starvation and brutal treatment; one man being beaten to death with bayonets for picking up a piece of beetroot skin.

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