

ACTRESS APPEALS FOR BRITAIN'S PROFESSIONAL NURSES IN CANADA.

A HIGHLY-COLOURED APPEAL.

Suppose—only suppose, because, of course, it could not happen, that a Canadian actress V.A.D. arrived in England on tour with her husband, and, added to other methods of advertisement and utilised her considerable leisure in touring our leading cities on a campaign of begging for Canadian trained nurses, and presenting these highly-qualified professional women, who form one of the most respected professional classes in that magnificent Dominion, in *forma pauperis* to their colleagues in Britain and the British public. What, we ask you, would be the attitude of the self-respecting organisations of nurses in the mother country to this self-appointed collector of cash? Personally, we believe a very determined and indignant protest would be made against the demoralising effect of any such charity. But this outrage has happened in Canada upon our behalf, and we are not surprised to learn from press cuttings, and from Canadian nurses, that Lady Martin Harvey's highly-coloured appeal on behalf of the Nation's Fund for Nurses has aroused extreme indignation amongst Canadian nurses, and produced a protest from the Alberta Association of Graduate Nurses, to be followed, let us hope, by united action upon the part of that forceful organisation, the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses, members of which consider nothing can be more injurious and disgraceful to the Home Government than that it should be made to appear to have entirely neglected the nurses who served in the war.

To quote the *Calgary Press* on an address (the usual slush) given by Lady Harvey at the Women's Canadian Club in that city. After informing her audience that "it is because I know some of the heroism of your boys, with which I came in close contact on the Somme, that I wanted to speak to the women of Canada during our stay here," Lady Harvey then proceeds to instruct Canadian women what they should do for their "boys," and later proceeds to hold up us "girls" (the professional nurses of Britain) as shell-shocked, gassed, and utterly broken paupers in the following exaggerated manner:—

TELLS WHAT NURSES DID.

"In speaking of her appeal which she is making on behalf of the National Fund for Nurses, Lady Harvey said that it was an Imperial undertaking and not limited to England. She said it was such a mistake to think that an Englishwoman would come to Canada and ask Canadian women to aid in something which was for the benefit of England alone. She felt that the work and the sacrifices of the nurses during the war was neither understood or realised. The number of casualties among nurses had never been published. Only those who had been in close contact with the military hospitals and dressing stations could know what those brave women had gone through to succour the wounded. It required much more than surgical

skill to meet all the demands that were made on the nursing forces.

"Lady Harvey told briefly of the hospital just outside of Etaples, where the conditions were so terrible that the medical authorities had decided to detail orderlies for the nursing. The nurses, however, offered their services, knowing that it might mean death, and while only 187 were needed, over 300 volunteered for duty." The speaker drew attention to the magnificent work of the women in Serbia, who fought the typhus epidemic in spite of the fact that they were losing at the rate of 22 and 23 nurses a day. Finally she told of the shelling of a hospital where the nurses were given leave to seek cover, yet not one deserted her post, although 105 nurses lost their lives that night.

"It is on behalf of women who have gone through such terrors as these and who have come out of the struggle shell-shocked, gassed, utterly broken in body and mind, and some who have contracted tuberculosis through nursing war cases that Lady Harvey is making her Canadian appeal.

DELIGHTFUL SURROUNDINGS.

"Her description of her own cottage home, which she has established at Bonchurch, Isle of Wight, was most interesting. Only 14 nurses can be cared for at a time, and there is always a long waiting list. It has been the aim to surround the nurses with all of the loveliest and most restful things, to help them forget what they have been through. They are not bound by any rules and regulations, except one, and that is the girls must have breakfast in bed."

"I am appealing to you to-day to help make the load less painful for these nursing sisters, to swell this Imperial Thanksgiving by a substantial tribute of love to these nurses," concluded Lady Harvey.

A CORSAGE OF VIOLETS AND ORCHIDS.

"The ballroom was crowded to capacity with interested women, who accorded Lady Harvey an enthusiastic reception. At the close of her address, Mrs. T. B. Moffat, President of the Women's Canadian Club, presented the speaker with a corsage of violets and orchids on behalf of the club members."

CALGARY NURSES' PROTEST.

This stuff, which had been addressed to other Women's Clubs in the Dominion, naturally aroused the indignation of the nurses of "Sunny Alberta," and we learn was hotly discussed at a meeting of the graduate nurses at Calgary. The members of this association felt that as this was a matter which should be of primary interest to nurses, it should be dealt with through a nurses' association; if the local was not large enough, there was the provincial, and if the provincial was not large enough there was the National Association of Trained Nurses. Not only was indignation expressed in connection with the matter, but suspicion as well.

The sentiment was also expressed at the meeting that before appeals of the kind which Lady Martin Harvey was making are met, something should be done in the way of providing a home for Canadian nurses and a proper home for nurses in training.

It was felt by the members of the association that nurses of the profession might be spared the humiliation consequent upon a toadying and

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