

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

“ALL PROGRESS IS STRIFE TO THE END.”

Rainstorms had swept down from the hills, and the little burn was swollen by the torrent and dark with the stain of the mud driven up from its bed or torn from the banks as the water rolled angrily on its way. No longer was this a happy rivulet shining in the sunlight, while you could count the pebbles beneath the water, or the sleek trout asking a shelter of the stones. No longer was it the rippling burn the children love; it had become full of strange, mysterious things they fear, and of which they fain would never learn.

But peace came down from the hills at last, and the heavy torrent ceased its roll between the narrow banks; once again clear water danced across the stones, and the sunbeams glistened and caught the fringes of the ripples. The pebbles and the grey stones were whiter than before the storm. For the water in its fury had torn away the stained growth of moss that had clung about them, and swept off the mud and weeds which had all but covered them at last.

But though the water had grown clear again there still remained a mass of ugly froth, thrown up in the passion of the water and, as I watched, it gradually grew smaller and now and then again, a part would be torn away from the rest to be drifted far out of sight until suddenly I saw that all had gone, and it seemed as though the shining Spirit of the Earth himself laughed up from the water and said, “I it was who cleared your rivulet of all that was wrong, of all that was not pure, of all that made the water flow sluggishly instead of rippling and dancing on its pathway over the stones. I it was who dispersed yon muddy froth, I working softly in the water.” And so the rivulet sang and danced across the stones again between fresh green banks, radiating their warmth, caught from the sunbeams, to the flowers all strewn upon them and nourished by the water.

And thus with the storms of this world's life. At times this, too, grows sluggish and loses its freshness, overmuch mud there is beneath the surface, the banks have lost their freshness and, just where they meet the water, they are dreary with decaying driftweed. They are dusty and

dry, and their soil needs cleansing. A spirit of unrest enters the waters, now here, now there; it is whispering that things are not as they ought to be, that somehow, in this or in that, life has stagnated, has fallen out of tune with cosmic evolution, has grown foul, it may be, with the driftweed of materialism. Ideas from those with a new inspiration rush in and—for we like them not overmuch at first—there is much troubling of the waters; life becomes chaotic and hopelessly full of storm. But wait, and the peace of the hills steals for a time over the waters; they are clearer than before the storm. Christ, the great Sun Spirit, has worked even to the sweeping away of the froth of jealousy, anger, pride, selfishness, egoism or, it may be, emulation thrown out in the passion and stress of the storm. The water flows peacefully again. Yet it is but for a time. The sand and mud collect and growth is stopped if there comes not a season of breaking. Awakening storms must stir again in the hills and sweep torrents into the stream of life that it may be adjusted, now here and now there, to the spirit of the age; now here and now there it must attune itself to the vibrations of a gradual but certain evolution. For only atrophy and decadence can result if, at times, there comes not the storm to sweep away perhaps here a blinding sentimentality, or there an inert satisfaction, so that all things may be made new.

“All progress is Strife to the End.” So spake a seer, so speaks the Spirit, so Nature speaks.

I. M.

TESTS OF NURSES' “INTELLIGENCE.”

Observation, with training, will give a nurse necessary knowledge, but intelligence will make this knowledge available. In addition to tests for observation, for which prizes were awarded at the recent Nursing Exhibition, four tests were arranged in which mental agility, mental alertness, initiative and acceptance of responsibility were tested, all qualities of vital necessity to nurses.

The results showed that, on the whole (a) the general degree of intelligence amongst nurses is good; (b) Sisters and Matrons are on the whole suited for posts where initiative and acceptance of responsibility are required.

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