

THE  
**BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING**  
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
**THE NURSING RECORD**  
EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

No. 1,780.

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1922.

Vol. LXVIII

**EDITORIAL.**

**GAY COURAGE.**

"Courage is the thing. All goes if courage goes! The greatness of the people is founded on their moral principles; but what says our Johnson of courage: 'Unless a man has that virtue he has no security for preserving any other.'"

—SIR JAMES BARRIE AT ST. ANDREWS.

The Rectorial Address of Sir James Barrie at St. Andrews University on May 3rd is one of the most memorable that has been delivered, for the reason that the Rector combines with the wisdom of age the gaiety of youth, and to hear wisdom from the mouth of Peter Pan is an entrancing experience.

The Rector does not envy the great ones of the earth. The people he has cared for, and who have seemed most worth caring for, have, he says, been very simple folk, but he cares supremely for the young, soon to set forth along the road which he has already trudged. "Would that I could put into your hands," he told the St. Andrews undergraduates, "a staff for that somewhat bloody march. There is much about myself that I conceal from other people, but to help you I would expose every cranny of my mind.

"But, alas! when the hour comes for the Rector to answer to his call he is unable to enter into the undergraduate he used to be, and so the only door into you is closed. We, your elders, are much more interested in you than you are in us. We are not really important to you. . . . I cannot provide you with that staff for your journey. But perhaps I can tell you a little about it: how to use it and lose it, and find it again and cling to it more than never. You shall cut it—so it is ordained—every one of you for himself, and its name is Courage. You must excuse me if I talk a good deal about courage to you to-day. There is nothing else much worth speaking about to undergraduates, or graduates, or white-haired men and women. It is the lovely virtue—the rib of Himself that God sent down to His children."

And then the Rector talked most charmingly, out of his experience, to youth.

"My own theme is *Courage*, as you should use it in the great fight that seems to me to be coming between Youth and their Betters; by Youth meaning, of course, you, and by your Betters us. I want you to take up this position—that Youth have for too long left exclusively in our hands the decisions in national matters that are more vital to them than to us. Things about the next war, for instance, and why the last one ever had a beginning. That the time has arrived for Youth to demand a partnership. That to gain courage is what you come to St. Andrews for.

"Your Betters had no share in the immediate cause of the war—we know what nation has that blot to wipe out; but for fifty years or so we heeded not the rumblings of the distant drum—I don't mean by lack of military preparations—and when war did come, we told Youth, who had to get us out of it, tall tales of what it really is and the clover beds it would lead to. We were not meaning to deceive, most of us were as honourable and as ignorant as the Youth themselves; but that does not acquit us of stupidity and jealousy, the two black spots in human nature which, more than love of money, are at the root of all evil.

"I am far from implying that worse things than war may not come to a State. . . . There is a form of anæmia that is more rotting than even an unjust war. The end will indeed have come to our courage, and to us, when we are afraid in dire mischances to refer the final appeal to the arbitrament of arms. I suppose all the lusty of our race, alive and dead, join hands on that.

"But if you must be in the struggle, the more reason you should know why, before it begins, and have a say in the decision whether it is to begin."

From speaking on courage in the abstract the Rector called to mind men who were examples of this virtue to a supreme degree. Henley, Stevenson, Hardy, and Captain Scott, who wrote in a farewell letter: "We are pegging out in a very comfortless spot. . . . We are in a desperate state, feet frozen, &c.,

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