

### SPIRES IN THE VALE OF BELVOIR.

If, when travelling between Grantham and Nottingham you step out of the train at Elton, preferably in the early morning of a June day, and climb the incline and cross the bridge, you will find yourself on the top of Orston Hill.

If you are a stranger you will be amazed that you have never before been told of the entrancing beauty of the Vale of Belvoir. You will not hurry on, but from the raised footpath rest awhile, probably leaning on a gate, and just absorb the richness of your surroundings.

Facing you, commanding views in three counties—Leicestershire, Lincoln, and Notts—stands the dominating Castle of Belvoir, the splendid seat of the Dukes of Rutland, the "lordly terraces" of which, and its Spring Gardens, are of world-wide fame.

Look west, and right over the valley of the Trent just beyond sight is Nottingham, its Castle, once the homes of the Dukes of Newcastle, built upon a rock. And all around are the rich alluvial lands, with red-tiled villages nestling amidst great elms and oaks, and in their centre, darting skywards, the lovely Church Spires of the Vale.

From Orston Hill the spires of Grantham and Newark are beyond the range of vision, but those of Bottesford and Bingham touch the blue, and if you descend the hill and take a field path, and cross the *Smite*, you come to the village of Thoroton, and here you will find the little Church of St. Helena, an architectural gem, the Spire of which has carried many an aspiration to the foot of the Throne.

The Editor of this Journal lived through childhood and youth at Thoroton Hall, and worshipped for twenty years in the Church of St. Helena. She has sat at all seasons on gates, or heaps of stones by the roadside, absorbed by the beauty of that Spire, and blessed old-time builders that they built beautifully with inspiration for long time.

From the top of a gate on a June day wild roses smell pink from bushes and hedges, the elders wave white as snow, the roadside is a carpet of convolvulus, and great stretches of barley sway silver in the breeze. Hay is hot in the sun near by, and great wagons painted red and blue trundle up and down the road, drawn by splendid horses, whose glossy coats glow the colour of ripe chestnuts. Everywhere the larks upspring and sing—and sing.

Thoroton's slender Spire pierces through the shimmering light to where beyond the songs of birds there is sweeter harmony.

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And now the post brings me a sad little letter from Thoroton. "Since you were here,"

it runs, "there has been a thorough look all over the dear old church, and they have come to the conclusion that if the tower is not restored as soon as possible the spire will have to come off—so we have opened a restoration fund."

Enclosed is a Collecting Card.

What I can afford I have sent, but I should like to do more to help save that lovely Spire. I propose, therefore, to clear out many things lying by—past glories—silks, satins, bimbones—and have a Sale at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Saturday, May 26th. Please come and buy. Also should any of the readers of this Journal feel inclined to lend a helping hand to save the little Church of St. Helena in Belvoir's Vale, gifts will be gratefully received if addressed for this purpose to Miss Fowler, Registered Nurses' Society, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

### NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Twentieth Anniversary of the Nurses' Missionary League will be held at University Hall, Gordon Square, London, W.C., on Thursday, May 3rd.

#### PROGRAMME.

"THE N.M.L.—A GREAT ADVENTURE AT HOME AND OVERSEAS."

*Morning Session, 10.15—12.30.*

"The History of Twenty Years." Chairman: Miss J. Macfee. Opening Hymn and Prayers, "The N.M.L. in 1903," Mrs. Basden (Mildmay Mission Hospital), Nigeria.

"The N.M.L. in 1913," Mrs. Arnold Hughes (Manchester Royal Infirmary), Hong Kong. Demonstration Bible Study Circle.

*Interval.*

"The N.M.L. in 1923." Reports from various Hospital Branches. Intercession.

Tea and coffee during Interval.

*Afternoon Conversazione, 2.30—5.*

Hostesses: Lady Craig, Mrs. Miller (St. Thomas' Hospital), Mrs. Sturge, Miss Stacey. Addresses: 1, "The Minto Nurses in India," Miss Darbyshire (University College Hospital); 2, "Hospital Work and its Progress in China," Thomas Cochrane, Esq., M.D.

*Evening Session, 7.30—9.30.*

Chairman: Mrs. A. Ll. Sturge. Opening Hymn and Prayers. Adoption of Annual Report, and election of Committee for 1923—4. (A list of nominations for the Committee will be hung in the Hall during the day.) Missionary Address: "Glimpses of Hospital Work in North India," Miss Maud Lamb (Royal Sussex County Hospital), St. Catharine's Hospital, Amritsar. Closing Address: "The Care of the Inner Life," the Rev. C. C. B. Bardsley, D.D. Tea and coffee, 7—7.15.

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