

'building for generations yet unborn'; some of us call it love; I think I call it God. . . .

"Never, never has the fire gone out. It is glimmering where a farmer plants trees of which he will never see the fruit; it shone brightly when Abraham left his home in the Chaldees and trekked into the mirage of the desert for the sake of a great idea; it blazed up in Moses when he abandoned the chance of being a prince in the court of Egypt that he might lead a mob of disaffected and thankless serfs through the sand dunes of Sinai; it brightened the eyes of those who wandered in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented, of whom the world was not worthy." . . .

"And this is the fire of the altar," he cried, an excitement heating his cheeks, "the fire of idealism, service, self-sacrifice. It has been burning since the beginning, nor shall it ever go out.

"It will burn on till it lights the King on his coming. But there is a great mass of people it never ignites; they are cold to it; they live for themselves alone. They are like unburned coal, full of potential warmth and service; and yet (so sad it is) there is that in them which would catch light at once! If there is anyone here who knows he is living solely for himself, let him consider whether he is not missing the true gaiety of life. 'This is the true joy of life, the being used for a purpose recognised by yourself as a mighty one, and the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap-heap.' Let the flame of your ideal consume you utterly."

"Sometimes," continued he, "the flame may burn up in you for a moment, and then droop, and be fitful. It is discouragement, misunderstanding, obloquy, and the loneliness of obscurity that make the flame fitful. And it is for this reason that, from the start, you must swear to be indifferent to praise and blame. If once you begin to want the praise of man, it is, like the sunlight, death to the fire. The work to which you put your hand must be so great, and so much your master, that it will draw you as easily through bad report as through good report. You must minister to its greatness, but it must not minister to yours. . . .

"Ah, . . . if there be anything of greatness in you, think on these things—think on these things. It is not you who matters, but the ideal you serve. For so your ark be borne to Zion, what matter if you are crowned! Be ye therefore perfect. Be ye therefore the slave of your great idea, ready to offer yourself a burnt offering before it. It is the only true joy. . . .

"The Ark goes on, while you, maybe, go under; and for that praise be to God."—ED.]

#### ONE OF THE THREE FIRST KILLING DISEASES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In the B.J.N. of the 23th ult. is the following advertisement from the Edinburgh Hospital for Women and Children (49):—

"Sister required for small V.D. Ward, and to assist in the training of Probationers.

*"Previous experience in V.D. work not essential."*  
(The italics are mine.)

Surely this shows an appalling lack of grasp of the present situation regarding venereal disease by our profession.

On all sides one hears and sees the enormous need of educational propaganda against venereal disease; witness the Trevethen Committee's Report. Yet, from the wording of this advertisement, one would suppose that it is a trivial matter either to nurse it, or to train probationers on the subject.

Surely, if the nurses now in training are not given adequate instruction, we cannot wonder that so much of the propaganda against V.D. remains in the hands of "lay" men and women, and we have only ourselves to blame for it, in my opinion. Wherever I go I am struck by the great need of getting trained nurses to help in our fight, and by the utter apathy that the heads of our Hospitals and Training Schools are showing. Even if there is a V.D. Clinic attached to the Hospital, one often finds the ordinary probationer does not obtain any theoretical or "social service" training or teaching in the matter.

And yet one still sees V.D. classed among the three first killing diseases of our country.

Yours,

E. M. CANCELLOR,  
Lecturer for N.C.C.V.D.

Morcombelake,

Near Bridport, Dorset.

[Many persons still mistake prudery for modesty.—ED.]

#### NOTICE.

##### REGISTRATION OF INTERMEDIATE NURSES.

The only Nurses who are now eligible for registration are what are termed Intermediate Nurses—those who have completed their three years' training and been awarded a Certificate since November 1st, 1919. The term of two years' grace for Existing Nurses has terminated.

##### WHERE TO REGISTER.

Apply for Application Form to the Registrar:—  
ENGLAND AND WALES—12, York Gate, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

SCOTLAND—13, Melville Street, Edinburgh.

IRISH FREE STATE—33, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

NORTHERN IRELAND—118, Great Victoria Street, Belfast.

Forms should be carefully filled in and the names given for references from persons who have agreed to supply them.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

August 11th.—What nursing measures other than drugs may be used (a) to quieten a restless or delirious patient and to induce sleep, (b) to check vomiting, (c) to induce the skin to act?

August 18th.—Describe the nursing of a patient after excision of the tongue.

August 25th.—What signs and symptoms would you expect in a case of gastric ulcer? Describe the nursing in such a case.

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