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Poised stands he for his breathless pilgrimage,
A-tiptoe on the glowing, rosy Dawn.
A tiny, trusting baby thing he is :
Eager, yet wistful, tremulous and shy.
Such little, little time he has to stay,
Such stern, momentous, fateful work to do
Ere he too swiftly fades into the dark,
That Limbo of lost years, and golden chance.

List ye, good people ! All attentive be !
Brand not with shameful deeds his shining brow !
See ye cloud not with tears his azure eyes !
Soon, soon, those tender infant limbs become
The sturdy stripling, straining at the leash,—
The full-grown man, that hath his glory won,—
The Aged Pilgrim, weary, bent and worn
With all the sins and follies of mankind.

Ah, welcome, welcome, spotless Baby Child !
Mine be the strong resolve to do and dare !
That at the closing of thy little span,
I may without remorse bid thee "*Adieu,*"
Whom never, never more I meet again
Until I face thee at the great Assize,
In the great Pageant of the Ageless Years.

* * * * *
God grant some deed of mine may still my fears !
H. H.

EDITORIAL.

THE MEMORIAL TO QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

"LET THEM HOLD THE STANDARD HIGH AS NURSES."

Florence Nightingale.

We rejoice to know that the National Memorial to Queen Alexandra to which the King and Queen have given their sanction and approval is one for augmenting the resources of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, of which Queen Alexandra was Patron.

There is no more beneficent institution in the kingdom than Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, founded by the Queen Empress with the Women's Jubilee offering in 1887, from which there was available, after defraying the cost of the equestrian statue of the late Prince Consort, the sum of £70,000.

To-day "Queen's Nurses" are known throughout the length and breadth of the land, and their work is followed with the benediction of thousands of our countrymen and women.

Her Majesty the Queen has now become the Patron of the Institute, which, in accordance with its Charter, is under the Patronage of Queens of the Royal House.

It is interesting to note the views of Miss Florence Nightingale, expressed in a letter written in 1896 to the late Duke of Westminster, in connection with Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute :—

"We look upon the district nurse, if she is what she should be and if we give her the training she should have, as the great civiliser of the poor, training as well as nursing them out of ill health into good health (health missionaries) . . . But let them hold the standard high as nurses."

The memorial to Queen Alexandra, though it cannot be visualised in important buildings, is one which can be enthusiastically supported by all classes of the community, primarily as their testimony of admiration and affection for the Royal Lady whom it commemorates, and secondly because gratitude for the work of Queen's Nurses is inscribed in the hearts of the poor.

The one weak point in the organisation of the Institute is in our opinion, that the same high standard of training is not required of those who nurse the poor in rural as in urban districts under its auspices, but that a class of workers known as "village-nurses" has been developed who are not trained nurses, but certified midwives with a very elementary knowledge of nursing not necessarily gained in a hospital.

The State recognises three qualifications for those in attendance upon the sick, *i.e.*, that of Registered Medical Practitioner, Registered Nurse, and Certified Midwife. We consider that the nurses employed by any public body should hold the qualifications of "Registered Nurses," and in the case of Queen's Nurses of Certified Midwife also.

Against this view it is alleged that highly-qualified nurses will not accept posts in rural districts in sufficient numbers. But we believe the primary factors in such a shortage are: (1) The isolation, (2) The very modest remuneration, and (3) The element of patronage and control by lay persons. The present appears to be an opportune moment for the reconsideration of these conditions.

Since the Institute was founded in 1887 nursing conditions have been revolutionised; the telephone, the bicycle, and the motor car have diminished space, and brought districts formerly isolated into touch with towns. A telephone in quite small places—at post office, police station, or a private house—is almost always available: in an emergency a nurse can be quickly procured by car; and her daily round can be arranged over a much larger area from a Central Home, which has cars at its disposal.

The point claimed in favour of the Village Nurse is

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