

Association, known for short as "Nonia." There were, she said, only 45 doctors in Newfoundland, and 4,000 miles of coast line, and there were 13 nurses at work who were the pluckiest in the world. They would go anywhere, at any time, in any weather, to the help of the people and did most marvellous work.

News is just to hand of the work of one of these nurses, Mrs. Dorothy Cherry (*nee* Forster) of Blackhall, Castle Eden, co. Durham, trained at the Bolton Infirmary, who is in charge of a nursing centre there, along 40 miles of the south-west coast, after a tidal wave and earthquake had recently devastated it.

Houses had been swept away and many people were injured. Nurse Cherry waded through waist-high torrents, struggled along on foot when her horse collapsed from exhaustion, and visited every one of the stricken communities, giving expert attention and calming the terrified women and children.

She accomplished a journey of 30 miles over wreckage-strewn roads, working day and night without rest or food.

Then she covered another eight terrible miles on foot, climbing over wreckage and crossing streams whose bridges had been swept away. The weather was intensely cold and snow was falling all the time.

She continued her work until a Government relief ship arrived, when she was on the point of collapse.

We think Lady Allardyce's claim that the "Nonia" nurses are "the pluckiest in the world" (or shall we say "some of the pluckiest"?) is well founded.

Mrs. Mary Breckinridge whose work as Founder and Superintendent of the Frontier Nursing Service in Kentucky the readers of this Journal know well, writes in the last Quarterly Bulletin:

"Perhaps it was the description of Teddy Bear's death in the last bulletin which has led to another present. Mr. A. B. Glancy of Detroit has just expressed down to us his beautiful Kentucky saddle horse Glen. Nothing in all our stables, which now include twenty-four head, is quite so fine. He came in to us when the thermometer hovered near zero and stepped across the icy roads and streams with the sure touch of one coming into his kingdom. Perhaps we exaggerate the affection we feel for our horses, but after all they are our companions, and our only companions, through the long winter months over the lonely trails. It would be hard to exaggerate either their devotion or our confidence."

How about manners? When we were young we were instructed that courtesy was the inspiration of civilisation, that letters must be politely acknowledged and replied to at once, especially if they contained an invitation. Our experience proves that the nurses of to-day do not practice such civility. Recently an invitation to a function and tea was issued through the JOURNAL, and those invited were politely asked to let the Secretary know if they hoped to attend. We believe about six acceptances were received. Sixty attended. Fortunately ample supplies had been provided to which the guests did justice. Hardly fair on the hostess. It only costs a penny stamp to be polite.

We have received with much pleasure the thirty-fifth Annual Report of the National League of Nursing Education (formerly the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses) which has its headquarters at 370, Seventh Avenue, New York.

Its Convention in 1929 was held in June in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and the President of the League, Miss Elizabeth C. Burgess, R.N., presided over its deliberations. In her response to the Address of Welcome by the Mayor of Atlantic City, Miss Burgess said that the meeting would be unique in many ways in the history of the League. The numbers might be smaller than usual, for many of the members were looking forward to the meetings of the International Council of Nurses in Montreal and found it impossible to attend both, but there was no lack in the number of those in Atlantic City who were interested in nursing and in the many branches of hospital activity. For the first time in the history of the League they were meeting at the same place and at the same time as the American Hospital Association and its allied organisations, and there were also present some nurses from other countries whom they hoped to know better when they met in Montreal.

Miss Burgess said that the National League of Nursing Education, the oldest organisation of all those assembled in Atlantic City, was concerned primarily with the great problem of the education of nurses, in their preparation first of all in the knowledge, skill, technique and qualities needed by everyone who is to give good nursing care; and secondly, in the further preparation required by those who would enter special forms of nursing service which require special techniques and special knowledge.

The Report shows the manifold activities of the League in all directions, and contains many expert and interesting papers.

THE ADELAIDE NUTTING — LAVINIA DOCK PRIZE.

For an Historical Essay dealing with a Nursing Subject

The response to the offer of this prize has been immediate and shown that much interest has been aroused. Everyone will be glad to know that the contest is open to nurses from all countries, since this will make the competition keener and the level of achievement will undoubtedly be higher than in a purely national contest.

The Committee hopes that many of the essays entered, whether prize winners or not, may be worthy of publication and may contribute material of permanent value for students of nursing history in all countries. In this connection it may not be out of place to suggest that the subjects chosen should be of more than local interest and that the contestants should aim at a standard of historical writing which will do honour to the two pioneer writers for whom the prize is named. While beginners are not excluded from the contest, it may save some disappointments later if it is frankly stated now that a good background of historical knowledge and some training in historical writing are presupposed in such a contest.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)