

Nurses who are acquainted with the good work done by the Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth now in Grove End Road, St. John's Wood, N.W., but for nearly a quarter of a century in Great Ormond Street, Bloomsbury, do not always know that its traditions go back to the days of the Crimean War, when ten of the nurses working under Miss Nightingale were Religious Sisters. On their return the Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth was founded, and the nursing taken charge of by four of these Sisters, and to this day its connection with Army nursing has been maintained. In the Great War the authorities of the Hospital placed 100 beds at the disposal of the Admiralty and the War Office, and no fewer than 2,743 patients were treated there. The services of the Sisters in this connection were recognised by the award to three of them of the Royal Red Cross.

The hospital is approved by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales as a complete training school in general nursing, and there are usually some sixty nurses in training. In addition to the general wards there are twenty rooms for private patients, and, in addition, two endowed rooms for patients unable to pay the usual fees of a nursing home, to whom the charge is from £2 10s. a week. In the general wards the really poor are received without charge, but those who can afford to do so are expected to contribute to the cost of their maintenance. There is a large visiting staff, and so busy is the hospital that it is hoped that the building will begin almost at once of much-needed extensions.

It is seldom that vacancies occur on the Kentucky Frontier Nursing Service, under the superintendence of Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, for those who join it stay on. Now, however, owing partly to the temporary reduction of the staff during the depression in the United States, there are vacancies for State Registered Nurses who are also Certified Midwives with subsequent experience. Those who desire further information on the subject should communicate with Miss Betty Lester, c/o the Young Women's Christian Association, Northampton, one of the supervisors of the Service now on leave, who is authorised by Mrs. Breckinridge to act on her behalf.

The love of Edith Cavell for her dogs is well known. Two of them have been immortalised in one of the best-known pictures of her. Appropriately, on October 12th, the anniversary of her death, there is published by Methuen & Co., Ltd., 36, Essex St., W.C., in association with the National Canine Defence League, a book (price 2s. 6d.) bearing the title "Nurse Cavell, Dog Lover," which is edited, with a biographical introduction, by Mr. Rowland Johns, himself a dog-lover. Mr. Johns has had the advantage, in preparing the text of the book, of the co-operation of the Dowager Duchess de Croy, the Princess de Croy, Mlle. J. De Meyer, Miss E. B. Wilkins, O.B.E., Mr. L. E. Naylor, and the staff of the Imperial War Museum, and the result is a book both charming and unusual.

It is pathetic to learn from this book that though Edith Cavell was such a lover of dogs "her affection for our canine friends had no opportunity to grow by association with them when she was a child, for neither her father nor her mother were attracted to dogs, and the

Norfolk vicarage where she spent her childhood was therefore dogless. It was not until she became a hospital nurse in London that dogs came into her life at all, but that an affection for our canine friends had then developed is clear, for we are told that on her off-duty hours she was very fond of taking her friends' dogs for a run. Not until she had been nursing for some years in Belgium did she find an opportunity of expressing her love for dogs by having any of her own. We have been able to learn from her friends how deeply she was attached to the two canine companions who cheered her during the early days of the Great War. After her death there was found in her room the small manuscript note-book in which she had written about dogs, and this is reproduced in facsimile."

There are delightful illustrations of various types of kennels with descriptive matter, then extracts on the care of dogs in Edith Cavell's clear handwriting. The following practical piece of advice is marked with a cross.

"*Watchdogs* should have their big meal in the middle of the day.

"A heavy meal at night induces them to sleep at a time when they should be on the alert."

Marked also is the advice that a dog should "look more particularly to his master for such daily attentions as feeding, grooming, and exercising: a dog soon reciprocates such little kindnesses, and instinctively takes upon himself the duty of protector."

The book also contains a facsimile of Edith Cavell's last letter written on the night preceding her execution, and giving clear directions to Miss Wilkins, the Sister of the hospital in the rue de la Culture, of which she was Matron. It gives explicit directions as to the few things which she wished attended to, and shows her serene and unafraid. The last words of the letter were, "My love to you all. I am not afraid but quite happy."

Mr. Johns is to be congratulated on the literary quality of this work, and also on presenting to the nursing world and the public an aspect of Edith Cavell's character of which not much is known.

It seems impossible for a nurse to do otherwise than take a "bus driver's holiday," writes Miss Grace H. Cole in *The Health Broadcaster*, and I have also learned that nurses never have to look for work. During a recent visit to the Scottish Highlands, I decided an interesting thing to do would be to spend a day with the district nurse for Tignabruaich and surrounding territory. I called at the home of the doctor where nurse has her headquarters, found she was on her vacation, also learned that doctor was away. The delight of the young "locum tenens" when he learned I was a nurse was a joy to behold! In his own words, I was "manna frae Heaven." He had an obstetrical case, due any time in a crofter's cottage, and no help available. After some hesitation I promised to help.

The baby did not arrive as scheduled, and a very efficient aunt of the expectant mother arrived from Glasgow by the evening boat and I was released from my promise. Unfortunately the nurse did not return before I left, but anyone as well known and highly spoken of by all classes as Nurse Ingalls is certainly fulfilling her destiny.

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