

## REVIEW.

## CONDEMNED TO DEATH.\*

In these pages we have once more brought before us the heroism and tragedy of women in the Great War. Once more we are brought into the atmosphere of Edith Cavell, of immortal memory.

It is not, however, of her primarily, but of Louise Thuliez who worked in close co-operation with her in promoting the escape of allied prisoners, that this translation from the French is brought before the public to-day.

The preface, by General Weygand, says:

"Model of purest patriotism, Victim of devotion to our country France, she was condemned to death by the Germans."

The story of her astonishing and hazardous work, and how it came to pass that she is to-day able to present her memoirs to the public should be followed with keen interest by our readers—"Lest we forget."

Once more we are reminded of the frightfulness of German occupation by one who can never "forget."

The ultimate arrest of this astonishing woman was a foregone conclusion, how she contrived to evade it for so long was a truly miraculous feat.

She was arrested at the house of Philippe Baucq, in Brussels, in 1915. Questioned as to her name and where she lived, "I replied to the latter that I had no fixed home, which appeared to amuse them very much, as well it might. They declared that it was a very strange state of affairs for a lady, especially in war time, and added sarcastically, that such being the case they would give me a 'fixed residence,' at the prison of St. Gilles. Here I was, it was no dream. The door was shut with a bang, the key was turned in the lock and I found myself alone to meditate on the fate which awaited me and to accept with resignation the prison life which was to form such a contrast to my wandering life of the last few months, in the free and limitless forest of Mormal."

In January she was transferred to Siegburg. "We were not isolated, as it was a train for Germans only, and the soldiers and officers came from other compartments to stare at us as if we were wild beasts. I was a companion of Miss Cavell and was therefore somewhat of a curiosity, for the name of the English heroine was well known in Germany.

"When crossing the Belgian 'Campine,' we admired the picturesque and restful landscape. It seemed to us the last and charming attention of Providence to allow us to fill our eyes with this beauty before our definite and final imprisonment."

The horror of life in the prison is told dispassionately and almost impersonally. Louise seems to have regard more to the sufferings of her fellow prisoners than of her own.

The case of Louise de Bettignes who appears to have suffered from an empyema, and was operated on in the prison infirmary in spite of protestations and appeals for the intervention of the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin, roused her indignation. The sisters who assisted the surgeon had gone before the patient had recovered from the anæsthetic, leaving her to the care of her companion. She was at the last transferred to a hospital in Cologne where she gave up her noble soul to God, only two months before the victory of our army to which she had given such active help.

Among the illustrations in this volume is a sketch of the prison cell at Siegburg, drawn by Louise de Bettignes, and one of her grave in the cemetery at Cologne.

The history of Edith Cavell is so well known that it is unnecessary to recapitulate the incidents of the trial when

the death sentence was passed. The first impressions of Louise on hearing her sentence, was, she says: "That the sacrifice of our lives as a holocaust for our country would counterbalance all our other imperfections."

A request that she and the Countess de Belleville might pass their last hours together was granted, but the inclusion of Edith Cavell denied. She passed her last night on earth alone.

Space does not permit us to speak of the subsequent reprieve of Louise Thuliez, who was kept prisoner till the close of the War. There are several interesting portraits in the book, two of which show the author in her prison dress.

H. H.

## A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

"Too much rest is rust." —Sir Walter Scott.

## PRAYER.

GOD be in my head,  
And in mine understanding;  
God be in mine eyes  
And in my looking;  
God be in my mouth,  
And in my speaking;  
God be in my heart,  
And in my thinking;  
God be at mine end,  
And at my departing.

*Primer of Salisbury Use, 1531.*

## WHAT TO READ.

- "The Story of My Life," Queen Marie of Roumania. Vol. I.
- "Charles II and Madame," Cyril Hughes Hartman.
- "My Shadow as I Pass," Sybil Bolitho.
- "Full Flavour," Doris Leslie.
- "The Making of a Man," Letters from an old Parson to his Sons.
- "A Handful of Dust," Evelyn Waugh.
- "The Foolscap Rose," Joseph Hergesheimer.
- "Wandering in Tasmania," George Porter.
- "Imperial Incense," Princess der Ling.
- "Changes Since the Great Victorians," James Milne.
- "Goodbye Mr. Chips," James Hilton.
- "Other People's Babies," Reminiscences of a Midwife, by Lisbeth Burger.

## COMING EVENTS.

- October 20th.—British College of Nurses. Meeting of Council, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.15 p.m.
- October 20th.—Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association. Meeting. Southgate Isolation Hospital, Tottenham Road, Palmer's Green, N. 3 p.m.
- October 26th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 20, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.
- October 26th.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Meeting Executive Committee, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 4.15 p.m. Tea (by invitation of the President), 4 p.m.
- October 26th.—Princess Elizabeth of York Children's Hospital, Glamis Road, Shadwell, E. Lecture on "Sir James Paget at Home," by the Rt. Rev. Bishop H. L. Paget, D.D., Hon. Chaplain to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Chairman: Mr. G. Grey Turner, M.S., F.R.C.S., Professor of Surgery in the University of Durham. Visitors cordially invited. 8.45 p.m.
- October 27th.—Sixteenth Annual Dinner Urgency Cases Hospital, Bar-le-Duc, Revigny (1915-1918), Canuto's

\*Methuen and Co., Ltd., 36, Essex Street, W.C. 7s. 6d. net.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)