

## NURSES' HOLIDAY CAMPS.

Ideal weather, the North Devon coast, jolly company. Under these perfect conditions 49 people have had a very happy holiday with the Nurses' Missionary League Camp (not under canvas, by the way) at Woolacombe, June 11th to 25th. Matrons, Sisters, private nurses, district nurses, nurses still in training, all with the holiday spirit, determined to have a good time; some were already old friends having met at previous camps, and the new campers were soon quite at home. From the first evening the dining room was filled with a buzz of happy conversation.

The days which passed all too quickly, were given up to enjoyment of bathing, walking, tennis, putting, each making her own choice. Woolacombe sands are ideal for bathing, which was a very popular pastime. Walks over the cliffs and through the lovely Devon lanes, banked with foxgloves and honeysuckle, were a refreshment and inspiration. Some all-day excursions by charabanc were also arranged. One took us across Exmoor Forest to Doone Valley, where time was allowed for a picnic lunch, a walk in the Valley, and tea at the farm, then back by way of Lynmouth, Watersmeet and Ilfracombe. Another day, two excursions were arranged. Some chose the long drive across Dartmoor to Buckfast Abbey and back via Exeter. Others drove to Clovelly, stopping at Barnstaple to see the famous Barum pottery. At Clovelly lunch was taken in picnic fashion in Mount Pleasant gardens overlooking the harbour, then after a walk down the one steep cobbled street to the sea, or along the Hobby Drive, the party went on to Hartland Quay for tea. Other shorter excursions to nearer bays were equally popular, giving opportunity for really good walks for the energetic people.

The days began with family prayers, when hearts were lifted up in thankfulness to the Giver of all our joy.

The mission field overseas was well represented, Sisters being present from China, Africa (Mengo, Toro, Nigeria and Congo) India and Iran. Each gave a talk on her own sphere of work, telling of joys and problems and emphasising the need for more nurse recruits to volunteer for the service of Christ overseas. Study circles were available for those who liked to join. St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians gave a new vision to many of what God can do with a surrendered life, offered for His service at home or overseas.

Everyone must surely return to work uplifted and refreshed by such a holiday.

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

### CANCER NOT NECESSARILY A DEATH SENTENCE

Sir Kingsley Wood, Minister of Health, speaking in London recently said it was simply untrue that, as too many people thought, a diagnosis of cancer was necessarily a death sentence.

Presiding at a Government dinner to the International Union against Cancer, he said he was glad to think the world was not entirely defenceless in the face of this enemy.

Although the cure of cancer had not been discovered, if the disease was caught in its early stages—and treated by surgery, by deep X-rays or by radium—it had shown a high recovery rate.

We could certainly say that the position generally, so far as treatment was concerned, was more hopeful than at any time and that thousands of people were being cured.

"Perhaps," added Sir Kingsley, "an even more deadly enemy than cancer is the nameless fear which causes a man or woman to destroy his or her hope of life by postponing a visit to the doctor until it is already too late."

## THE PASSING BELL.

### DAME SARAH SWIFT, G.B.E., R.R.C.

Dame Sarah Ann Swift, G.B.E., who was Matron-in-chief of the British Red Cross Society in the War, a position she held until this year, died on Sunday, June 27th, at the age of 83.

She took a three years' certificate at the Royal Infirmary, Dundee (1877-1880); was acting matron at the Home for Incurables in Dundee till 1886; ward superintendent, City Hospital, Liverpool (1887); night superintendent of the London Fever Hospital (1888); superintendent of nursing, Seamen's Hospital, Constantinople (1890); night superintendent, assistant matron, and then matron of Guy's Hospital, London, till 1909. On the outbreak of the War she became Matron-in-Chief of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John and her work included the inspection of Red Cross hospitals at home and abroad. She was created Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire in 1919, and she also held the Royal Red Cross and the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. Of recent years Dame Sarah Swift was on committees interested in the organisation of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

The funeral took place at Golders Green on Tuesday, June 29th, and a memorial service was held in the chapel of Guy's Hospital on Thursday, July 1st, which many representatives of nurses' organisations attended.

Sir Squire Sprigg, Editor of the *Lancet*, has passed away, mourned by a large circle of friends. He was best known in the nursing world for the organisation of the *Lancet* Commission on Nursing, which advocated the abolition of the One Portal to the Nurses' Register—a fundamental privilege for which the State Registrars had fought for 30 years, and which principle is incorporated in the Nurses' Acts. Long may it remain so.

### "FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE: THE WOMAN AND THE LEGEND."

In "Florence Nightingale: The Woman and the Legend," by Miss Margaret Goldsmith, the author shows not only Miss Nightingale's heroic work in the Crimea, the knowledge of which is world wide, but also her subsequent activities during a long life, which have made their mark in hospitals in all parts of the globe. It demonstrates also her burning temperament, her love of power, her pungent wit, and her wonderful unselfish achievements. We hope to give it a review next month. Nurses should not miss this book, which is being published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton.

### WORD FOR THE MONTH.

#### Singleness of Heart.

Singleness of heart is essential to true growth in personality. Every life needs some one great dominating purpose if it is to develop into a true whole. Out of the raw material of competing impulses and tendencies, all of which crave realisation, a coherent self has to be shaped. Many wreck their lives because they have never reduced this complex material to order; they have never been caught up into the sweep of some one great aim which gives unity to the varied purposes of life. They lack that inner harmony of spirit which makes life strong and happy. The most potent of unifying forces is religion. If God is brought into a man's life that life at once begins to acquire unity, for God is the supreme unifying principle. Those who seek God in singleness of heart find not only a governing purpose of life, but a peace of mind which links them to the eternal order.—*The Times*, June 26th, 1937.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)