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## IN MEMORIAM.

There passed to his rest on Saturday, October 14th, 1939, BEDFORD FENWICK, M.D., the most generous and devoted friend of the Nursing Profession throughout the world.

## EDITORIAL.

The first Lord Cross expressed the opinion half a century ago "that if you had read the *Yorkshire Post* in the morning, there was little need to read a London paper in the afternoon."

The truth of this statement has been forcibly corroborated during a recent visit to the North of England, where we have enjoyed the privilege daily of devouring with avidity the leading article in this fearless paper.

We venture to quote at length the article published on October 3rd, on "Mr. Churchill's Initiative," and advise members of the nursing profession to study it carefully and give their support to Britain's faith in the justice of her cause.

### MR. CHURCHILL'S INITIATIVE.

Mr. Churchill's broadcast on Sunday has been warmly welcomed everywhere—except in Germany. Listeners at home felt that they were at last being given a tonic which went far to dispel that depressing atmosphere of cautious secrecy about the war in which they have been compelled to dwell during the past month. As for the effect of the speech abroad, the New York *Herald Tribune* praises Mr. Churchill for having so vigorously forestalled Hitler's peace move, and adds: "One speech of this sort is worth batteries of heavy artillery. One leader of Churchill's calibre is worth more than an army corps." But what exactly was it, we may ask, that Mr. Churchill's speech accomplished, apart from the facts he gave about military and naval operations? Surely its prime virtue was that it regained for Britain that moral initiative which has been so grievously allowed to slip away in recent years. Mr. Churchill was not afraid of using the plainest language in describing the evils we are fighting to destroy. He spoke of "the reproach of Nazism, with its intolerance and brutality," and how soon victory will be gained, he declared, "depends on how long Herr Hitler and his group

of wicked men, whose hands are stained with blood and soiled with corruption, can keep their grip on the docile, unhappy German people." These are words which the world can understand; they leave no one in doubt as to why Britain felt that this war had to be fought and must be fought to a finish.

Yet it is not only just lately that the essential characteristics of the Nazi régime have been revealed to public gaze. As a help towards gaining power the Nazis set fire to the Reichstag and threw the blame on the Communists. This was an early move in the campaign which enabled Hitler to pose with such great success—for just as long as it suited his aggressive ambitions—as the saviour of Europe from Bolshevism. He had not been long in power before he found it necessary to shoot down in cold blood many of his former associates. Meanwhile, he had begun his systematic persecution of the Jews; he had opened concentration camps for his political opponents, and was engaged in hounding out of Germany a number of distinguished scientists and writers, either because of their Jewish blood, or because he considered their outlook incompatible with the Nazi creed. The Nazis also took charge of German education and soon turned it into a rigidly efficient instrument for indoctrinating children with the ideals of militarism and unthinking Fuehrer-worship.

These crimes against humanity were evident enough years ago, but from statesmen in the democratic countries they met with singularly little protest. One reason advanced for not protesting against them was that it was improper to deny Germany the democratic right of choosing her own form of government. This reason was valid in its own sphere, but it was not a reason for refusing to look with open eyes at the Nazi tyranny and the dangers it obviously threatened to all freedom-loving countries. If Hitler could set about ruthlessly suppressing freedom in Germany, while at the same time he was building up a powerful war machine and talking frequently about Germany's national grievances, was it not certain that sooner or later his foreign policy would begin to follow the same lines as his policy at home? Democratic statesmen, however, continued to believe that a little polite persuasion would suffice to turn the dictator of Germany into a "good European." They clung to this belief after the reoccupation of the Rhineland, they clung to it after the seizure of Austria, and were so enamoured of it that they even succeeded in representing the surrender to force at Munich as a triumph for peaceful negotiation.

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