

bereaved who have lost their dearest. "Killed, missing, wounded, prisoners of war!" Columns day by day in the Press. Beloved only sons, fathers, lovers. And yet we, the British people, would not have it otherwise. To stand aside when it is difficult to visualise God in His Heaven, would mean descent into Hell. We must cling to the Stars.

The King of a Great People.

King George VI, with one of his subjects among the smoking ruins of a bombed area in London: "You are a great King, Sir," said the man. "You are a great people," was the King's answer.

THE ATTEMPTED EXECUTION OF PIERRE LAVAL AND MARCEL DEAT.

Sooner or later it was inevitable that a patriotic Frenchman should attempt to annihilate the two traitors to their country (Pierre Laval and Marcel Déat) whose policy has sent thousands of their fellow countrymen to their deaths or into cruel bondage.

No surprise is occasioned by the action of Paul Colette, a young patriot from Caen. He is the first but surely will not be the last Frenchman to take the law into his own hands—though death may be his portion—unless German tyranny ceases to operate in France, and that at an early date. History will repeat itself.

Charlotte Corday.

This reminds us of a chapter by Thomas Carlyle on "a stately Norman figure . . . of a beautiful still countenance—her name is Charlotte Corday. . . . Apparently she will go to Paris on some errand . . . there she purchases a large sheath-knife in the Palais Royal; then straightway takes a hackney-coach to the Rue de l'École de Médecine, No. 44." It is the residence of the Citoyen Marat—the Citoyen Marat is ill, and cannot be seen. . . . stewing in slipper-bath; sore afflicted; ill of Revolution Fever. Hark, a rap again! A musical woman's voice, refusing to be rejected. It is the Citoyenne who would do France a service. Marat, recognising from within, cries: "Admit her." Charlotte Corday is admitted.

"Citoyen Marat, I am from Caen, the seat of rebellion, and wished to speak with you." "Be seated, *mon enfant*. Now what are the traitors doing in Caen? Their heads shall fall within a fortnight," croaks the eager People's-friend clutching his tablets to write. . . . Charlotte has drawn her knife from the sheath, plunges it, with one sure stroke, into the writer's heart. "*A moi, help.*" No more could the death choked say or shriek. . . . As for Charlotte Corday, her work is accomplished; the recompense of it is near and sure. The gendarmes arrive; she surrenders, and goes quietly to the Abbaye Prison. Later, in the Palais de Justice, a strange murmur ran through the Hall at sight of her. Tinville has his indictments and State papers. "All these details are needless," interrupted Charlotte; "it is I that killed Marat."

What tempted you? His crimes. "I killed one man to save a hundred thousand; a villain to save innocents; a savage wild beast to give repose to my country . . ." There was therefore nothing to be said.

On this same evening, therefore, from the gate of the Conciergerie to a city all on tiptoe the fatal cart issues; seated in it a fair young creature, sheeted in red smock of murderess; so beautiful, serene, so full of life; journeying towards death—alone amid the world. . . . At the Place de la Revolution the countenance of Charlotte wears the same still smile. . . . As the last act, all being now ready, they take the neckerchief from her neck; a blush of maidenly shame overspreads that fair face and neck; the cheeks are still tinged with it when the executioner lifted the severed head, to show it to the people.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The Annual General Meeting of the British College of Nurses was held at Headquarters, 19, Queen's Gate, London, on Wednesday, September 10th, and was well attended.

Important business was transacted, which will be fully reported in next month's issue.

IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS.

The following important Resolutions were unanimously agreed:

A Vote of Thanks to the Fighting Forces.

The following expression of gratitude, proposed from the Chair, was passed by acclamation:

"That the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses in annual meeting assembled, beg to record their heartfelt gratitude to, and their sincere admiration of the self-sacrifice and valour with which the members of the fighting forces of the British Empire are defending the rights of humanity throughout the World."

It was directed that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Secretary of State for War, and to the Secretary of State and President of the Air Council.

A Special Committee to be Organised.

It was agreed to appoint a Special Committee to consider the legal status of the Registered Nurse.

Nurses' Salaries Committee.

In reply to the invitation from the Minister of Health to appoint a representative on to the Nurses' Salaries Committee, it was agreed to accept the invitation with thanks, and Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Vice-President of the College, was elected to serve as its representative.

Conjoint Committee of Employers and Employees.

In reply to an invitation from the Royal College of Nursing to nominate a representative on to a Committee for the consideration of the Nursing Services, especially regarding the proper control of the Assistant Nurse, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"That the British College of Nurses, in annual meeting assembled, thanks the Royal College of Nursing for its invitation to send a representative to serve on a committee to consider the Nursing Services, but declines the invitation for the following reasons:

"(a) That by the proviso that 50 per cent. representation shall be secured to the Royal College of Nursing, the views of one representative from this organisation would be subordinated and any opposition to the majority proposals would be ineffective.

"(b) That it is to be noted that organisations (outside those of the nursing profession, and, therefore, incompetent to pass judgment upon matters intimately and vitally affecting the profession and the welfare of the nurses) are to participate in the deliberations of the Committee and in the conclusions arrived at.

"(c) That this General Meeting envisages a possible danger to our declared policy, in regard to certain fundamental principles, were we to become associated, as a constituent Society, with a committee which (with its preponderating representation for one organisation and its representation for bodies other than those composed of Members of the Nursing Profession) might arrive at conclusions directly opposed to our policy, and give rise to the assumption that we had altered our principles in matters hitherto regarded as vital."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)