

STUDY THIS ARTICLE.

The following article appeared in *The Canadian Nurse*, May, 1946, and we are of opinion that it deserves study and very sincere consideration.

THE FUTURE OF NURSING

ELIZABETH TWEEDIE.

The Nursing profession was born when one woman cared enough to risk position, reputation, and security to fight to see that her nation took care of its sick and wounded in the best possible way. She had to face great odds, prejudice, sneers, and apathy. Her fight took her to the highest authorities in her government, through the red tape of army tradition, and brought a new healing force to the world. To-day every nurse needs to rediscover those fighting qualities. Then our profession will strengthen the nation not only in time of war, but also in peace.

Now that the war of arms is over, the battle for the peace is on. The success of that battle depends on whether or not we Canadians can cure the hates, fears, and greeds which are producing broken homes, delinquency, and the divisions in our national life. What is needed from us is a renaissance of the true spirit of nursing—the spirit which inspires a nurse to give all of herself, her heart, her head, and her hands in the fight for her country.

This renaissance is coming! There is a growing number of nurses in this country, in America, England, and throughout the world who are beginning to work together not only to heal the sick but to heal the nation. Let me tell you of one. She is an ordinary girl with a good training who chose to be a nurse because it meant a secure future, being a member of a respected profession, and because she had a genuine desire to be useful. Like all of us what she really wanted was a chance to give everything for something great. To-day her nursing has an added plus because she has found a new ideal.

She recently had a patient whose illness gave him great pain and little hope of recovery. He was a world figure—the friend of statesmen, labour leaders, industrialists, and ordinary people in many countries. This nurse, who was responsible for his care, had a passion to see that while life remained every bit of his energy should be used to its best advantage. She found that he had always been afraid of pain. As she talked of her own fears and how she had conquered them, he talked of his and, in expressing them, found freedom. She told him of her vision of the service he could render to the world through his friends, and planned with his family how each day could be used to the full. The result was that instead of a fearful invalid, protective of himself, he was a man who gave of his heart and wisdom to everyone he met.

The wife of a diplomat who holds an important post for this country found during a visit with this patient the secret of unity with her husband, and how she could best back him in a most difficult situation. A delegate to a world conference, who had just lost his wife under tragic circumstances, came and found not only personal comfort and strength from his sick friend, but also the will to fight for moral leadership at the conference. These are but two of the many to whom this patient gave new purpose and courage.

This is renaissance—where the nurse lives to make her patient great and thus makes her profession great; where we nurse not only to relieve and comfort, but to free men to live and give their best. What will such a spirit, caught by hundreds of nurses in this and every land, mean?

As we learn to live selflessly and together build this new spirit we shall become a force in national life—a force for healing and uniting, a force for moral strength and, therefore, the initiator of a new quality of health. This is our part in bringing peace and security to the world.

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

"Allenby." Viscount Wavell.

FICTION.

"The Island Forbidden to Man." Muriel Hine.

"That Lady." Kate O'Brien.

"Stay Out till Tomorrow." Iris Bromige

"Bright Day." J. B. Priestley.

"Then and Now." W. Somerset Maugham.

"The Reluctant Widow." Gerorgette Heyer.

"Cold Pastoral." Ronald Mason.

"Burned Fingers." Kathleen Norris.

"The Moonlight." Joyce Cary.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Selected Tales. A. E. Coffard.

"Mountain Holidays." Janet Adam Smith.

"Ethiopia under Haile-Selassie." Christine Sandford.

"From a South Seas Diary." Sir Harry Luke.

"Arabia Phoenix." Gerald de Gaury.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Miss M. A. Eaddy, New Zealand writes: "Many thanks for sending THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING so regularly, I have not missed one copy all through the war years."

[Not only the Editor, and Printers, but the postal authorities are to be congratulated.—ED.]

From a Registered Nurse who wishes to do her professional duty.

How does one seek an interview with one's Member of Parliament in the House of Commons?

[Write politely and tell him you are a constituent, and would much like to place the position of the Registered Nurses before him, as under the 1943 Act privileges have been withdrawn without the knowledge and approval of the electorate. Ask him if he will give you an interview at the House of Commons and when? Make a few notes for him to save time and for reference. Make him understand that the 1943 Act uses the Registered Nurses fees and Headquarters for promoting a class of nurse you do not consider sufficiently skilled to have charge of the sick.—ED.]

He looked so happy

DEAR MADAM,—I am nursing a lady whose health has entirely given way waiting for news of her only deeply beloved son—who now, after a silence of three years, is presumed killed in action.

She would take a window to watch the march past on V Day, as she felt, dead or alive, he would be there, and sure enough I believe he was there in the spirit, as the dear lady has been remarkably better these few days. "He looked so happy," she told me.

Cultivate loyalty and gratitude

A District Nurse writes: "What can we do to maintain the voluntary spirit in our fine hospitals? It seems too sad to realise that all the loving sentiment lavished on the sick for centuries is to be no more, and our association with the sick reduced to business. As it is the new nurse is by no means overburdened with feeling."

[Cultivate loyalty and gratitude and matters cannot go far wrong.—ED.]

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