

The Story of Two Nurses.

By T. A. Hightower, Superintendent Addison Mills.

The position of resident nurse is what the person who fills the position makes it. Whether the plant is small or large makes little difference. Useful work will always be found by the nurse who wants to be useful and who isn't lacking in imagination. The woman without vision, training and experience, as Mr. Hightower says, will find herself acting as a basin passer and bandage, or if her employer knows what a real nurse ought to do, will find herself out of a job.—Editor's Note.

Two nurses entered two factories about the same time. One was a graduate of a large hospital and had done private nursing for wealthy patients for 10 years. The husband of her last patient owned a factory and offered her the position of a resident nurse.

She found herself in a sunny, white first-aid room. Few patients came and those who did come seldom returned. To ward off boredom she made lingerie, knit sweaters, read current literature and engaged in the ancient art of killing time.

Of course, she liked her Sundays off, took hours off whenever she could, wished there were more holidays in the calendar, thought much about her vacation, felt she couldn't live unless she had a perfect night's sleep, undisturbed by any calls from inconsiderate patients, and seemed to love her job because it gave her an opportunity to play at being a lady of leisure.

Her employer, however, noticed her idleness and being a fairly thrifty individual, as well as a good executive he invited her to become assistant to the employment manager.

He felt that he was offering her a wonderful business opening.

The job he offered her would bring her closer to the people, would enable her to establish many human contacts and she would be in position to render many services.

She, however, announced that she had been trained as a nurse and would not waste her time as a clerk in an employment office.

In six months she had shown no results and actually was asked to resign.

A forewoman, in addition to her regular duties, does, to the satisfaction of everyone, all that this nurse had done and more.

The employer said recently, "I want no more nurses in my plant. They cost too much and do not increase production."

Of course, he hadn't given the trained nurse idea a fair trial. He happened to be unfortunate in getting hold of a nurse who was lazy; who lacked imagination and who, apparently, knew nothing whatever about the true spirit of service.

A second manufacturer spent some time looking for a nurse. When he found one who loved to do things in a businesslike way and who had the personality which he felt would win the confidence of his workers, he engaged her.

Instead of sitting around the first-aid room, doing fancy work, this nurse spent most of her time in the plant. Here she found many things to do.

Slowly but surely, in co-operation with the management, she has fastened the safety-first idea so firmly in the minds of the workers that there are few accidents in her plant. The first-aid room is open, of course, but the need for first-aid very largely has disappeared.

The nurse has devoted her attention to the health of the workers and their families and to civic cleanliness. She calls regularly at the different homes and gives so much common-sense, helpful advice that her visits always are welcome.

Naturally the work of this nurse is still growing. Her employer said, "She is the most important person in the plant. She can stay as long as she likes and when she retires we will pension her."

As I see it, a nurse can, in a way, be a great producer of production. If her work is what it ought to be the labor turnover will be less, there will be less sickness, fewer accidents and the human equipment of the plant will be kept up to the highest notch of efficiency.

In any plant, whether large or small, there are opportunities for the right kind of resident nurse.—"Builders," published by Lockwood, Greene & Co.

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JOHN R. SCURRY.

The Soul of the Nation.

What America fought for in the war has been variously discussed by speakers and writers lately. In a few notable instances the attempt has been made to show that this nation went into the world conflict solely to defend its own interests, and that the broader purpose of rescuing civilization from collapse had nothing to do with it. Such, however, is not the view of the American people, nor of their real leaders today; nor was it their view at that memorable time when their sons so nobly responded to the call to save civilization from shipwreck.

President Harding, on the Sunday preceding Memorial Day, worshipped in the historic church of Pohick, Virginia, of which our first President was once a member. He sat in the Washington box pew, and after the service addressed the congregation by invitation. That the President held the broader view was clearly made manifest in the course of his address. While he disclaimed any intention to launch out into a discussion of the cause of the war, President Harding declared that "America fought to preserve the rights of the Republic and to maintain the civilization of which we had such a part in the making; and in that service we have rendered tribute not only to that cause but also to the highest ideals of humanity."

Again, in his Memorial Day address at the Arlington National Cemetery, the President recurred to the same theme; "Wherever men are free, they are wont to give thought to our country's services in freedom's cause. Where men may aspire to a freedom not yet achieved, their instinct turns the eye and the thought of hope this way and they pray that their cause may gain our approbation. . . . They have seen our protecting arm stretched over the outposts of liberty on every continent. For more than a century our plighted word warned tryanny from half the world; then, when the gage was taken up by mad ambition, men felt the blow that arm could strike when freedom answered in its utmost might. Across the seas we sent our hosts of liberty's sons, commissioned 'to redress the eternal scales' . . . Now our Memorial Day is become an international occasion; it calls upon the fortunate free of many lands and countries to help in its observances, and equally to them and us it is a reminder of our common troth to civilization, humanity and everlasting justice."

Referring to our own interests as a nation, he said: "I counsel no selfishness, no little Americanism, no mere parochialism, when I urge that our first duty is to our own, and that in the measure of its performance we will find the true gage of our capacity to be helpful to others." Then, toward the conclusion of his brilliant oration, he said: "We believe that the torch will flame more brightly in our hands, that we will hold it safe and high aloft, and that its light will help, at least, to point the way for humanity on the path of safety and in the task of building for all time."

There utterances by the President, which accurately express the sentiments of the American people as a whole, might profitably be pondered by those who have not hesitated to attribute to the nation views it never held concerning the war. Such men do a disservice when they stir up a conflict of discussion over a matter that should have been regarded as too sacred to be made a target for partizanship. It was clearly in President Harding's mind to forestall such discussions in the future when he spoke in the Virginia church and at Arlington as he did, and we take it that he means it to be well understood what that purpose is. At this late date, to spread the assumption that the United States had no aim beyond the selfish one of serving its own interests, is a libel upon the whole nation and a gross misconception of the spirit of America, whose heroic sons gave their life's blood to make the whole world "a better place to live in."

Yes, the nation has a soul, and it found expression in the war. We did not seek glory or conquest, but justice and righteousness. And we will continue to seek these until we have done all that lies within our power to attain them.—Christian Herald.

Candidate for Cotton Weigher.

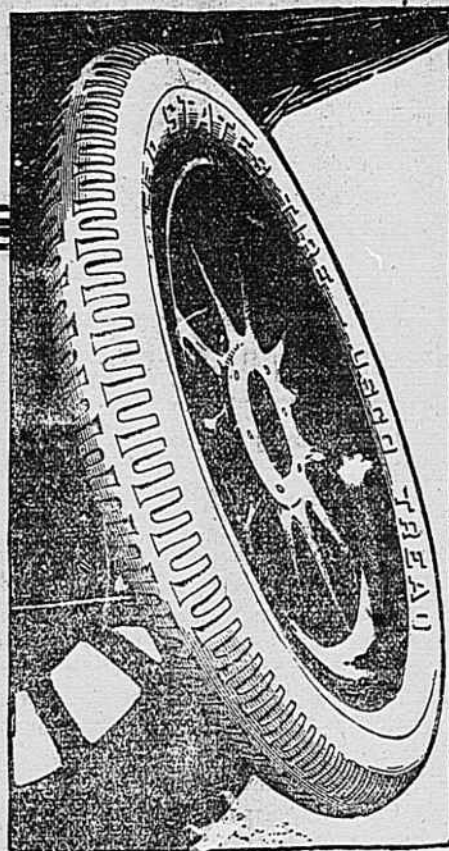
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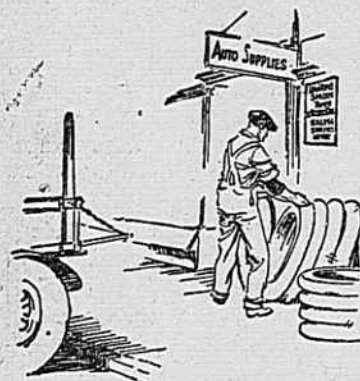
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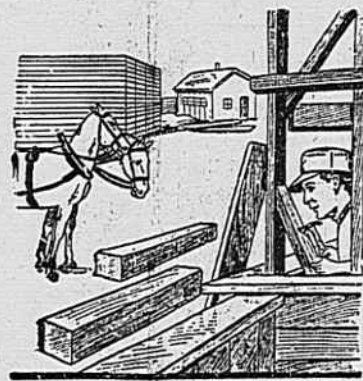
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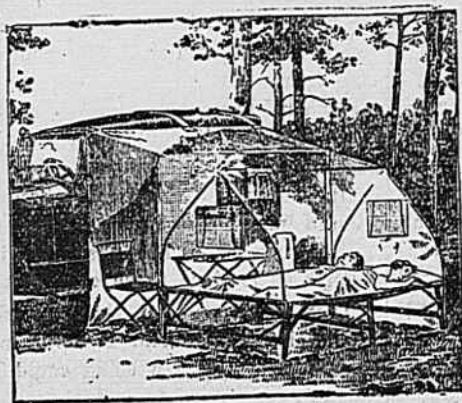


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