

The Quarterly Bulletin of The Frontier Nursing Service, Inc.

VOL. V.

DECEMBER, 1929

NO. 3



A MOTHERS' CLUB ON RED BIRD RIVER

THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF
THE FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE, Inc.

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VOLUME V.

DECEMBER, 1929

NUMBER 3

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Ky., under the Act of March 3, 1879."*

Our Friend, our Brother, and our Lord,
What may Thy service be?
Nor name, nor form, nor ritual word,
But simply following thee.

We bring no ghastly holocaust,
We pile no graven stone:
He serves Thee best who loveth most
His brothers and Thy own.

Who hates, hates Thee; who loves, becomes
Therein to Thee allied;
All sweet accords of hearts and homes
In Thee are multiplied.

Thy litanies, sweet offices
Of love and gratitude;
Thy sacramental liturgies
The joy of doing good.

In vain shall waves of incense drift
The vaulted nave around:
In vain the minster turret lift
Its brazen weights of sound.

The heart must ring Thy Christmas bells,
Thy inward altars raise;
Its faith and hope Thy canticles,
And its obedience praise,

Whittier

A CHRISTMAS SECRETARY

Last year the Frontier Nursing Service received over 2000 presents for children, and with money sent by its friends bought 1000 more. These gifts all had to be hauled in from the railroad and redistributed over a large territory. All but three were completely accounted for and promptly checked and acknowledged. But we feel that the job is now too big to be handled satisfactorily by our busy office force and nurses. We have therefore this year a Christmas Secretary, who is giving her entire time to opening and checking the boxes and parcels, writing notes of acknowledgment and keeping a card file of all names and addresses and the contents of all parcels. We hope very much that this will eliminate all confusion, duplication or omission. As the packages are opened, the contents are sorted according to the sex and ages of the children for whom they are intended, and then the exact number asked for by each nurse for her own boys and girls and babies are loaded into wagons and sent her. After that the job is hers.

We cannot begin to find the words in which to express our gratitude for everything.

406 BARE FEET

We checked up personally on 3123 of our children in November, and found 203 without shoes of any kind—about 6½%. Carrying the same figures over into the five million population of the Appalachian range, and supposing them to be typical (a fair assumption) one would get approximately 195,000 barefoot or near-barefoot children. Conservatively one can estimate at least 150,000 children whose feet are inadequately protected from the winter weather as they trudge the stormy miles back and forth to their one room schools.

It is the custom of the Frontier Nursing Service nurses to have a yearly jollification on Thanksgiving Day. The staff now numbers twenty, but only two-thirds can get in to Hyden for the celebration, as one must always be on call at every center for the deliveries. We choose Thanksgiving for our frolic because we are busy at the different stations with the children's festivities over Christmas. When the nurses come in on Thanksgiving they report just what their needs are going to be for their Christmas celebrations. Among other things they report their barefoot children. It isn't guesswork. They bring drawings of each pair of little feet. This year we had as a guest the chairman of our St. Louis Committee, and an order for shoes for all the children was his immediate gift.

While these words are written, boxes and barrels are coming in from East and West with warm clothing and toys, and the wholesale grocery houses in a number of cities, led by Bryan-Hunt of Lexington, are supplying candy for 3,500 children. Everything is under way to make Christmas a reality over about 500 square miles of rough mountain country. But it is only 500 square miles, and what of the thousands and thousands of children all over the Appalachian range? What of the children over many other lonely sections in America? Here and there one finds schools and church stations doing a royal part. Personally, we have never been to one that wasn't accomplishing a great deal

under heavy odds and that didn't deserve the support of all its friends. But the economic need of our frontiers has not been met up until now by any agency—and this includes our own.

Perhaps the market crash will bring home to the great cities some conception of the grind of poverty under which the remote rural districts habitually struggle. Modern America is geared only for an urban life. But some fifty million Americans don't live in cities. What of them?

There is a family on Bull Creek where the mother died of tuberculosis five years ago. A little later the nineteen-year-old son was dying of tuberculosis. We tried to get him in a state sanitarium, but the waiting list was over two thousand. So he died. Now the next son is dying of tuberculosis. Meantime the father has married again, a widow with several young children. He has several of his own. They are all living in a two-room house and some of them are sleeping in the bed with the dying boy. We wanted to get the three youngest boys out to a preventorium, but there isn't, in the whole length and breadth of America, a single preventorium that will take a mountain boy. Every American city provides for the care of its tuberculars and pre-tuberculars. None open their doors anywhere for the rural child who does not live in their own counties. If anyone doubts this statement let him write the National Organization for Tuberculosis or any State Board of Health. *Who is our neighbor?* Is it only he whose diseases would render us unsafe because he lives in our community? Can't our obligations be stretched to include families beyond our own?

We see the curious spectacle of the wealthiest nation in the world sheltering at its heart the most extreme poverty. Is anyone whole while there is sickness in one part of his body? No pomp we can flaunt before the world is gorgeous enough to hide our rags. The responsibility belongs to each one of us. The writer of these lines wears party slippers (\$15.00 for a bit of brocade) when she knows children who lack shoes. Truly, we all are, as a great Englishman has said, only in "the rude fore-shadowings of the civilization that is to come."

Two most welcome guests who came to us this autumn were Mrs. Catherine Filene Dodd of Washington, D. C., and Major Julia C. Stimson, head of the Army Nurse Corps. Major Stimson has written the following words about her visit:

November 19, 1929.

It's very hard to express one's impressions after a visit as full of new sights, stirred emotions, and renewed admiration as was our visit to the Frontier Nursing Service. "It has to be seen to be appreciated," is an old and hackneyed phrase, but it never was truer than about this Kentucky Mountain nursing work. How can one describe the thickly wooded mountain paths and the brilliant colors of the leaves or make clear the joy of riding along the stream beds on a sure-footed horse who so knowingly picked his way over the rocks?

How can one bring before others the pity that filled the heart at the sight of a worn and sad-faced young woman emerging from a shack to hurry to the road to speak to Mrs. Breckinridge—her nurse friend who could advise her and make plans for her? No one who didn't see it could realize the isolation and loneliness and discouragement of the life of that young woman up there on the side of that rainy mountain at least six mule-back miles away from friends who could help. Little creeping baby penned into the house by a chair across the door and husband working up in the woods all day weren't very much help in her condition.

As for admiration, no one in the Service wanted that and it had to be suppressed, but what's to be done with what one thinks of nurses who, holding their personal somfort of no account, are filled with enthusiasm about their life, their horses and long night and day rides, their precious babies and grateful mothers, their groups of children crowding into the small clinics for inoculations and "pretties"?

If out in the world one met a nurse who could deliver babies, superintend primitive carpenter work and well-digging, dose and care for horses, advise about farming, teach untrained girls cooking, live cheerfully by candlelight and with enamel basin and

pitcher bathing facilities, keep well and full of humor and common sense, one would think the combination of all these qualities was worthy of comment. And down there in that Nursing Service seventeen or eighteen nurses were doing all these things—and each one thought her particular center and her particular work and her particular patients were the very best. Such human girls they are, too, squealing over the candy from outside, blushing with pride at the praise of a steamed pudding made especially for the guests, eagerly grasping at the magic words and music from the big cities coming in through the cleverly rigged up radio. Read others' reports of the records, the system, the organization, the use of the money and the convincing statistics. From me there is just this message: "Listen to Mary Breckinridge tell about the work, then go and see for yourself."

(Signed:)

JULIA C. STIMSON,
Major, Army Nurse Corps,
Superintendent.

FIELD NOTES

Story of a Cow

In the September bulletin we mentioned that the need for a cow for the babies at our hospital was urgent. Almost immediately we got a generous check from Mr. B. H. Kroger of Cincinnati. Within ten days a Holstein tuberculin-tested cow in the Blue Grass was on her way up to the mountains by express. She was coaxed gently in from the railroad, and we found to our delight that she continued to give her six gallons a day. She replaces three cows which all combined did not give six, and she only eats the food for one. Not only are the babies getting the best possible milk but we are saving two-thirds of the cost of providing it. We named her after the month in which she came to us—October.

A Gift Horse, in Whose Houth No One Need Look

Perhaps it was the description of Teddy Bear's death in the last bulletin which has led to another present. Mr. A. B. Glancy of Detroit, has just expressed down to us his beautiful Kentucky saddle horse, Glen. Nothing in all our stables, which now include twenty-four head, is quite so fine. He came in to us when the thermometer hovered near zero and stepped across the icy roads and streams with the sure touch of one coming into his kingdom. Perhaps we exaggerate the affection we feel for our horses, but after all they are our companions, and our only companions, through the long winter months over the lonely trails. It would be hard to exaggerate either their devotion or our confidence.

* * *

The Caroline Butler Atwood Center

This charming new center is practically finished, and the nurses have been living there since early in November. We have never had a more responsive district than this territory where Flat Creek flows into Red Bird River, and for miles around. To substantiate this statement the following almost unbelievable figures, which are literally and exactly true, are given. In the first two months and two days after the work opened up in that district under Miss Peacock and Miss Willeford, they gave 3,086 typhoid and T. A. T. shots, and 483 in one day. People came on mules and on horses and in wagons from as far as fifteen miles away.

* * *

The Seventh Center

We are happy to be able to announce the gift from Mrs. Hiram W. Sibley of Rochester and New York, of a nursing center in memory of her Kentucky mother, Margaret Durbin Harper.

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For the convenience of those who may be willing to remember this institution in their wills, this form of bequest is suggested:

"I hereby devise the sum of.....
dollars (or property properly described) to the Frontier Nursing Service, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Kentucky."

It is preferred that gifts be made without restriction, since the Trustees thereby have a broader latitude in making the best possible use of them. Of course, however, they are also welcome where a particular use is prescribed.

To facilitate the making of gifts of this sort, it is suggested that if they come by will there be added to the form shown above some such language as the following:
"This devise is to be used (here describe the purpose.)"

Suggestions for special bequests:

\$40,000 will endow a Frontier Nurse in perpetuity.

\$12,000 will endow a Frontier Hospital Bed.

\$ 5,000 will endow a baby's bassinet.

\$10,000 will build and equip a Frontier Center for the work of two nurses.

\$15,000 additional will provide for the upkeep, insurance, repairs and depreciation on this center, so that

\$25,000 will build and maintain in perpetuity a center.

A number of these centers have been given and equipped, and two are already endowed.

Any of the foregoing may be in the form of a memorial in such name as the donor may prescribe, as, for example, the Jane Grey Memorial Frontier Nurse, the Philip Sidney Frontier Hospital Bed, the Raleigh Center, the Baby Elizabeth Bassinet.

Any sum of money may be left as a part of the Frontier Nursing Service Endowment Fund the income from which will be used for the work of the Service in the manner judged best by its Trustees, and the principal of which will carry the donor's name unless otherwise designated.

Statement of Ownership

Statement of the Ownership, Management, Circulation, etc., required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1922, of

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Published Quarterly at Lexington, Kentucky, for December, 1929.

State of Kentucky }
County of Leslie } ss:

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Mary Breckinridge, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the Director of the Frontier Nursing Service, Inc., publisher of the Quarterly Bulletin and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1922, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form to wit:

(1) That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business manager are:

Publisher: Frontier Nursing Service, Inc., Lexington, Kentucky.

Editor: Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, Wendover, Leslie County, Ky.

Managing Editor: Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, Wendover, Leslie County, Ky.

Business Manager: Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, Wendover, Leslie County, Ky.

(2) That the owners are: The Frontier Nursing Service, Inc., the principal officers of which are: Mrs. S. Thurston Ballard, Chairman, Louisville, Kentucky; Mrs. S. C. Henning, Louisville, Ky., and Judge E. O. O'Rear, Frankfort, Ky., vice-chairmen; Mr. C. N. Manning, Lexington, Ky., treasurer; Mrs. W. H. Coffman, Georgetown, Ky., and Mrs. Joseph Carter, Versailles, Ky., secretaries; and Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, Wendover, Ky., director.

(3) That the known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: None.

(4) That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company, but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the corporation or person for whom such trustee is acting is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest, direct or indirect, in the said stock, bonds or other securities than as so stated by her.

FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE, Inc.,

By Mary Breckinridge, Director.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of Sept., 1929.

MARION S. ROSS, Notary Public,

Leslie County, Kentucky.

My commission expires June 12, 1932.

FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE, Inc.

Its motto:

“He shall gather the lambs with his arm
and carry them in his bosom, and shall
gently lead those that are with young.”

Its purpose:

To safeguard the lives and health of mothers and young children by providing trained nurse-midwives for remotely rural areas where resident physicians are few and far between—these nurse-midwives to work under supervision; in compliance with the Regulations for Midwives of the State Boards of Health, and the laws governing the Registration of Nurses, and in co-operation with the nearest available medical service.

