

The Quarterly Bulletin of The Frontier Nursing Service, Inc.

(Successor to Kentucky Committee for Mothers and Babies)

VOL. IV.

DECEMBER, 1928

NO. 3



THE FRONTIER NURSE

THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF
THE FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE, Inc.

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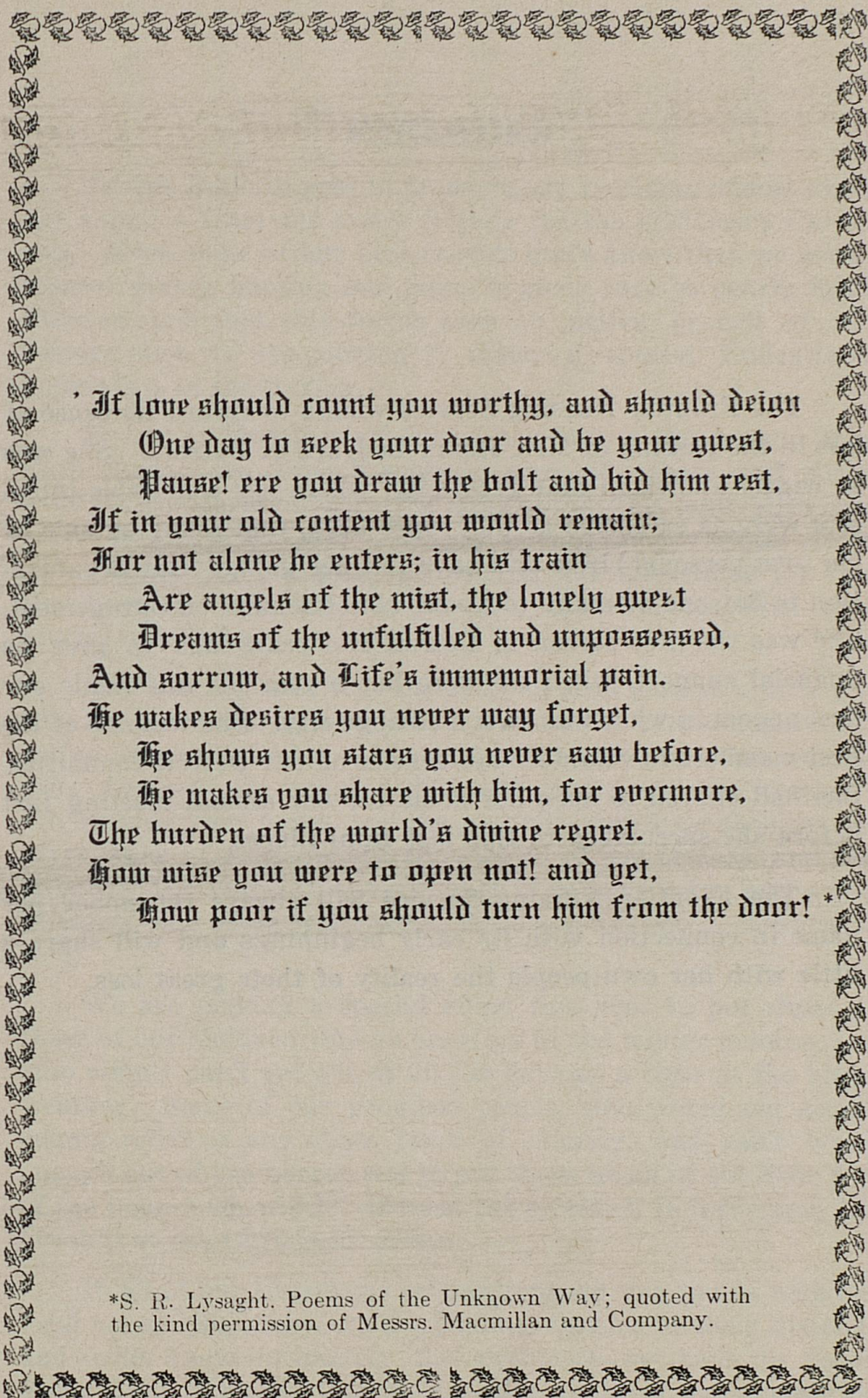
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VOLUME IV.

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' If love should count you worthy, and should deign
One day to seek your door and be your guest,
Hause! ere you draw the bolt and bid him rest,
If in your old content you would remain;
For not alone he enters; in his train
Are angels of the mist, the lonely quest
Dreams of the unfulfilled and unpossessed,
And sorrow, and Life's immemorial pain.
He wakes desires you never may forget,
He shows you stars you never saw before,
He makes you share with him, for evermore,
The burden of the world's divine regret.
How wise you were to open not! and yet,
How poor if you should turn him from the door! *

*S. R. Lysaght. Poems of the Unknown Way; quoted with
the kind permission of Messrs. Macmillan and Company.

The Frontier Nursing Service wishes to record its sense of loss in the passing of Mrs. Henry Ledyard of Detroit. She was so widely known in that great city, where her charitable interests were as extensive as they were keen, that many outside of her own personal circle will have felt her going. Our organization is but one of many to know her friendly encouragement. She was the first person in Detroit two years ago to give us financial support, when we were but a year old and made our first appeal in what was then a strange city. She was one of the first members to volunteer her service on our Detroit committee. She had offered to open her home for our annual meeting just before she succumbed to this last fatal illness.

The Frontier Nursing Service will always remember her name in connection with its early beginnings and will share a little with her own people the reality of their great loss.

FOREWORD

As this Bulletin goes to press we are receiving almost every day supplies from our many friends for the Children's Christmas. Even some of our best friends don't know that we are at present giving nursing and home hygiene care to nearly 3,000 children, and that this forms such an active branch of our Service that we are putting it under a special Educational Supervisor in the Spring.

Except at Hyden itself, where the Misses Buyers and Miss Ruth Huston are doing a splendid piece of school and social work, in co-operation with the local authorities and with our health program, and are, of course, halving the Christmas needs, no other agency but ours is bringing any Christmas joy into the lives of these several thousand children, scattered over several hundred square miles.

It is literally true that the doll you send goes to a little girl who has never had a store doll before, and the harmonium or ball or top or knife reaches a boy who will receive no other outside gift. Can you not imagine then, the eagerness with which we are opening your boxes, and the joy with which we shoulder the extra work of planning the trees at all of our centers, and distributing the parcels? Every child is to have a toy and a bag of candy, and those who need it most will get warm clothing as well.

We are making a special effort this year to put shoes on those of our children who go barefoot in the winter months, and who simply can't get out at all for days at a time in the bitter weather. Some of our proudest people, who would not accept county relief or any other form of charity, and can't wrest enough out of the barren soil to put shoes on all of the little feet of the household, will let us meet the situation in a common fellowship at the Christmas season.

In all of our Christmas celebrations we join hands with our local committees, who are the leading citizens in their districts and who know intimately the problems we have to touch every day. We take this opportunity again of acknowledging

our unbounded debt to the many hours of time which they have spent with and for us, to the service without pay which they constantly render, to their wise advice and ready understanding.

At the same time we want to extend our grateful appreciation to the hundreds of friends on the outside who are sending us supplies and money to bridge the accidents of space and time, and link their Christmas with ours.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION FROM THOSE WHO KNOW US INTIMATELY

THE WORK OF THE FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE AS SEEN BY AN ASSOCIATE IN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

Familiarity with the plans for the Frontier Nursing Service since before it was organized, and a month spent in a statistical survey of its work at the end of the second year, give me basis for the statement that I consider it the outstanding piece of constructive social engineering in the field of health in rural regions in our country at the present time. It has been planned and carried out with acumen and strategy, as well as buoyancy and thoroughness, and deserves the abundant success that should crown a piece of social work which is badly needed, shrewdly contrived, economically practical, and scientifically sound.

ELLA WOODYARD, Ph.D.

Institute of Educational Research,
Teachers College, Columbia University.

THE WORK OF THE FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE AS SEEN BY A PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

A month with the Frontier Nursing Service visiting the various nursing centers, going with the nurses on their rounds, reading their records and reports and talking with them of their cases sent me away from the mountains of Kentucky saying of the service "needed, practical, and efficient."

If an enterprise may be described by such adjectives need more be said? Needed? Men, women, and children in the iso-

lated districts of this country without medical or nursing service, living by the fruits of their hard labor which provides existence but little if any money, sick as those in towns are sick, dying as those in towns are dying but without doctor, or nurse. Yes, needed.

Practical? A service which provides public health nurses trained in midwifery who can carry a generalized program, give prenatal nursing care, attend women through normal labor and give postnatal care. A service which provides that the nurses may send for the doctor when absolutely necessary and whose nurses have been trained to "carry on" efficiently while the message for help is sent and the doctor travels the 25 or 30 miles to the patient. A service which is decentralized and which locates its nurses in the heart of their districts in small health centers where they live and from which they cover, on horseback, an area with a five mile radius. Yes, practical.

Efficient? A service which wins the cooperation of the community itself through the organization of local committees, and which makes use of all the help which the community can give whether it be in horse shoes or land. A service which keeps its cost per visit down by getting the people to travel to them as much as possible, instead of their travelling to the people. A service whose costs compare favorably with the costs of similar services in cities where people live at close range, but where rents are high. Yes, efficient.

WINNIFRED RAND,
Merrill-Palmer School.

First Vice-President of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing.

THE WORK OF THE FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE AS SEEN BY AN ENGINEER

Big Creek, Ky., November 6, 1928.

Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, Director,
Frontier Nursing Service,
Wendover, Kentucky.
Dear Mrs. Breckinridge:

I take this opportunity to write and tell you of my deep appreciation of the work now being done by the Frontier Nursing Service, under your direction, in Leslie and Clay Counties.

I have spent twenty-five years in the mountains of South-Eastern Kentucky and South-West Virginia, having been in charge of work that brought me in intimate contact with the mountain people, and I have seen the extreme primitive life of its people, and also the lack of knowledge of the most simple ideas of comfort and proper living conditions in the homes.

I have seen the results of all kinds of social and religious work, which has been carried on by the various mission schools and centers, and while they have accomplished some wonderful results, I think that the work of the Frontier Nursing Service has reached the needs of the mountain people in a way no other organization has been able to accomplish.

In my contact with the people in this section, I have heard nothing but praise for your work. Your nurses have been able to go into the mountain cabins and help the mothers and children. The mountain people do not express themselves freely about personal matters, but they have discussed with me your work, and always in a way that shows that they realize the help that is being given them, and they appreciate it. The results accomplished have been remarkable.

My opinion is that no change can be made in this section until the desires and wants of the people are awakened; that they do not know of any other way to live than their present mode of living, and of course will not change until they desire to do so by their own will. The Frontier Nurses are teaching them in their homes, and they will change and make their lives more useful to themselves and their country.

I have seen the lack of proper medical attention—where the nearest doctor is from fifteen to twenty-five miles away, and will only come at a prohibitive cost, and then accomplish nothing on account of the lack of proper living conditions. Your nurses go in case of sickness or accident and give first aid and are able to advise whether medical aid is necessary.

I wish to assure you and those associated with you that I will at all times do all in my power to help you in your work, and that I will be glad to assist you in every way I can.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) S. E. PUCKETTE,
Chief Engineer,
Fordson Coal Company at Annalee.

FIELD NOTES

Baby Charles England has lately made his bow to this world on Devil's Jump Branch of Hell-for-Certain Creek.

* * *

Our warm thanks are tendered Dr. James Boggs of Hazard for the gift of his horse "Snip." We remember "snip" well, as he carried Dr. Boggs in to our Beech Fork center once on a thirty-three mile ride, and so did his bit towards saving the life of the mother of six little sons. We love having him a permanent member of our stable staff.

* * *

One of the most welcome guests that ever rode in to see us was Mrs. Langdon Marvin of our New York Committee, who spent five days at different centers this autumn. She is a cracker-jack horsewoman and a rare good sport, and nurses and mountaineers alike, all who met her, enthusiastically enjoyed her.

* * *

During the last quarter we have had more accidents than in any other one year; perhaps that is because we are a much larger service than we have ever been before. Miss Dorothy White's horse, Major, fell with her recently, badly injuring her shoulder. A trip into Hazard to see Dr. Collins and for an X-Ray showed no bones broken, but the ligaments were so torn that she is still carrying her arm in a sling.

* * *

The worst accident, however, has come to our neighbor, Dr. Mildred McKee, whose services are so generously at the disposal of the Hyden Hospital. While riding in the Confluence district with her baby on the pommel of her saddle, she struck her head on an overhanging foot bridge and was thrown violently. The baby sustained no injury, but Dr. McKee has a fractured vertebra. She was taken to our station at Confluence and from there moved down to Lexington on an improvised Bradford frame, where she makes the fourth case of bone injury which Dr. Brown has handled for our section! Dr. McKee was fortunate in having expert attention within a few hours after her injury. Dr. Johnson of Baltimore happened to be in the mountains on a visit to Dr. Stoddard and both men were within sixteen mule-miles of Confluence.

Miss Gladys Peacock and Miss Mary Willeford sail for England December 8th for a much-needed holiday and for post-graduate work. They return in the spring, the one as midwifery, and the other as educational supervisor.

* * *

Miss Ellen Marsh and Miss Edith Matthams are taking over the new center on Red Bird River.

* * *

Miss Marion Ross is spending her holiday in Canada.

* * *

Miss Bland Morrow of New Orleans has joined the clerical force.

* * *

Miss Ellen Marsh and Miss Emily Williams were the guests for their holidays of friends in Louisville, Cincinnati and the Blue Grass, who gave them a most wonderful time.

* * *

The Hyden Hospital has had two Kohler light units given it by the Mary Parker Gill Estate, through the United States Trust Company in Louisville, with complete fittings, and there aren't the words in which we can express the value of this gift. When all the lights are on, of a dark night, the hospital looks like a great airship, riding above the town in the mists on the side of the mountain.

The complete water supply from power to septic tank system has been given by Mrs. Thruston Ballard, in addition to her original gift. Mrs. Ballard has also started an endowment fund of \$30,000.00, for her memorial building, for its maintenance in perpetuity.

The horse, whose picture appears on the cover of this issue of the Quarterly Bulletin, is a black mare named Raven and was the gift of Mrs. William Monroe Wright, of Lexington, Kentucky. The nurse-midwife is Miss Betty Lester.

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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, 1928.

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: Dr. A. J. A. Alexander, Chairman, Spring Station, Ky.; 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 1st day of December, 1928.

MARION S. ROSS, Notary Public,

Leslie County, Kentucky.

My commission expires June 12, 1932.

FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE, Inc.

(Successor to The Kentucky Committee For Mothers and Babies, 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.

FRONTIER TRADING BEHAVIOR

"It shall be the duty of the trader to buy and sell
and carry them in his boat, and shall
honestly lead those that are with young."

Its purpose:

To care for the life and health of Indians and young
of them by providing trained nurse-midwives for removal
and to provide for the health of the Indians and their
to nurse-midwives to work under the supervision of the
with the regulations for the health of the Indians and their
and the laws governing the registration of nurses and midwives
in connection with the removal of the Indians and their