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ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR NEURO-DISABILITY :
Fundraising : Appeals : Christmas Appeals

Thoughts of an Incurable

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Part 2

June 12th.

WHILE we live we are between the earth and the sky ; when we die we believe that the body goes to the one and the soul to the other.

June 13th.

OUR dreams that trouble us are not really very different from our doubts and fears when awake ; they may be more grotesque.

June 14th.

THE tears I shed when my mother died seemed to me then, as they do now, but a poor return for infinite love.

June 15th.

THE wild hyacinths that carpet the woods are perhaps Nature's kind words to the trees.

June 16th.

WHEN old joys come to life again we shall all be very happy.

June 17th.

SUNSHINE floods our grounds to-day, and where the blinds are down, the playful breeze lifts them and the sun peeps roguishly into our ward.

June 18th.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES is the Home of many sufferers who wish all holiday makers this summer many happy hours.

June 19th.

A MUSICIAN without a soul is like a Charity that is not needed.

June 20th.

THE mellowed and mystic air of a favourite hymn is as good as a prayer to me.

June 21st.

ACROSS the darkening ward when evening comes I often see an absent friend's face.

June 22nd.

I THINK too much sorrow for one's own ills is a form of great selfishness.

June 23rd.

CHILDREN racing down grassy slopes are not unlike Stock Exchange men, only the one class runs for delight solely and the other class for profit.

June 24th.

A MESSAGE reached me just now from another ward where a friend has died. I fancy I could hear the words, "All's Well."

June 25th.

THE Church bells begin to ring before some Christians cease to quarrel.

June 26th.

IF I were strong I would love to work for sixteen hours a day.

June 27th.

INCURABLES are always sorry that their own particular disease is not some other disease. They yearn for change, just as healthy folk do.

June 28th.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES received a legacy to-day. If money cannot be taken to Heaven it is well it can be left to this National Charity.

June 29th.

THE deepest silence sometimes calls loudly upon us for charitable action.

June 30th.

UPON the field outside my window early this morning there was a thick mist, but I knew for a fact that the haystack was in its old place, although I could not see it.

July 1st.

WHEN there is thunder about the dairymaid is alarmed for more than one reason; her cream may turn sour and she also knows that her foolish sweetheart may be sheltering under a tree—and get struck.

July 2nd.

IF I were rich I would be generous to Incurables.

July 3rd.

SAILORS don't care for Fridays, and they tell me butchers don't like Mondays. To some Incurables all days are Fridays or Mondays.

July 4th.

THE month of August does not know how many ways there are of pronouncing its name.

July 5th.

THE junior clerk should make a point of studying his chief's moods, if he would one day be a chief himself.

July 6th.

A GREAT financier once told me that a chapter in the Book of Job was his best tonic.

July 7th.

THE knack of knowing what is most likely to happen is of great use.

July 8th.

THE City and the fields can only throw sweet messages to each other when the counting-houses are shut and there is no noise.

July 9th.

THOUSANDS of children are playing on the seashore this month and thousands more are gaming in the big town's back yards and streets.

July 10th.

SEVEN days to a week, twelve months to a year, and, alas, sometimes pain for a quarter of a century.

July 11th.

THANK God, most Incurables do not take life tragically.

July 12th.

ILLNESS need not kill romance; I can dream dreams and picture pictures, even if suffering has made my appearance unromantic.

July 13th.

ONE can have and enjoy freedom of thought, even if one is an Incurable.

July 14th.

IF the bad we hear about many great men and women were true, it is no worse than the envy and spite that circulate it.

July 15th.

I THINK a pretty woman in a bad temper is not unlike a fair flower covered with a poisonous and a ravenous fly.

July 16th.

I PREFER a man to sing at his work rather than to whistle, for he cannot possibly whistle as well as the birds.

July 17th.

SOME great vocalists use their lips with better effect than some of us use our hearts.

July 18th.

MY heart sometimes feels as though it has been stabbed as many times as a pin-cushion.

July 19th.

IF we possess strength we ought to give support.

July 20th.

FACTS are all very well, but they often need diluting with Fancy to make them palatable.

July 21st.

THERE isn't much worth while about a woman who is not kind, while if she is kind to all she runs the risk of being styled a coquette.

July 22nd.

SUNDAYS with some folk are the "breaking-up" days of their religious life: they make too much pious noise.

July 23rd.

A BIG railway station is a severe test for human nature, because we forget where we are and only seem to remember where we want to be.

July 24th.

I THINK the word "final" one of the most depressing in the English language. I cannot tell why.

July 25th.

MUSIC does for some of us what wine does for others.

July 26th.

PAIN puts us on a pedestal and so robs us of free action.

July 27th.

NELSON once stayed in rooms which are now a part of the ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES, Putney Heath, and we possess a chair that once belonged to Charles Dickens.

July 28th.

WHEN the Orchestra is playing we sometimes imagine we are looking our very best ; something lifts us up.

July 29th.

A PUBLIC speaker ought not to stammer, if he realises that his very hesitation makes some of his audience as nervous as he is himself.

July 30th.

WHAT a world of poetic trust the feeble old lady has in the big policeman who pilots her across the busy street. She doesn't think about his private life ; she believes in his strong arm.

July 31st.

MEN who have big appetites do not always do the most work.

August 1st.

I HAVE nothing to say about the woman who judges all her sisters, except that she is conducting a very big business.

August 2nd.

THE soul would have no rainbow had the eyes no tears.

August 3rd.

AN individual who cannot forgive is better outside your circle of friends.

August 4th.

IF I indulged in a "lucky" number it would be ONE MILLION, because it would embrace so many numbers !

August 5th.

A HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES is a little world that is worth a visit, although the scenes may not be the chief attraction ; think of the lesson.

August 6th.

WHAT a pity that there are people who take up Charity as a hobby, just as some little boys take up the keeping of white mice.

August 7th.

BAZAARS are sometimes a means of good ; a brazen means, if you like.

August 8th.

IF one star could send a message to another star, I wonder what the words would be : perhaps just a simple little thought, such as "go on shining."

August 9th.

WHEN a boy goes out with a nice new fishing-rod it does not follow that he will catch more than the boy with the willow-stick and the string and bent pin. It is just another instance of Eton and Board School.

August 10th.

IF I could fly I would not go too high for fear of suddenly losing my gift.

August 11th.

OUR ward is gay to-day because it is my birthday. You see I have kind friends who know my little weaknesses—flowers and other pretty things—and a cake with a sugar coat.

August 12th.

IF Providence says it must be, it is for the best—so far as I can tell.

August 13th.

WHAT presumption for a man, or a woman, with the brain of an eel to sit in judgment on another who has done something useful.

August 14th.

HUSBAND and wife may be one ship, but a water-tight compartment arrangement is advisable. Naval architects are long-headed fellows.

August 15th.

THE inmates of the ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES are by no means tired of life. God has given us hope in spite of the English tongue, for the word "incurable" is so cruel.

August 16th.

THE sailor boy who has lived for months on the tossing waves loves motion, so he borrows a bicycle while on holiday !

August 17th.

A GOOD sermon may be a bad sermon if we don't understand it. Lucidity is the soul of pulpit success.

August 18th.

IF I am sometimes very sad I try to get it into my head that the hours of to-day are not likely to contain more minutes than they did yesterday.

August 19th.

I THINK it a very futile saying when I hear that there are as good fish in the sea as any hitherto landed. No doubt there are, but they have yet to be caught.

August 20th.

THE end of each day is just as serious, really, as the end of each year.

August 21st.

SECRETS are responsibilities; one can have too many.

August 22nd.

YEARS of downright inquisitiveness bring about on one's face a mark of interrogation and one's friends get tired of it.

August 23rd.

IN the ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES there is some breaking of hearts that will not break.

August 24th.

I WITNESS much suffering here, but I never mistake suffering for sanctity; I have thought it well out.

August 25th.

No system of philosophy gives me comfort at certain times.

August 26th.

Noisy persons do not understand how it is they hear no whispering of angels: how odd!

August 27th.

I OFTEN conceal my ignorance by suddenly remembering to keep my mouth shut.

August 28th.

THE map of Europe has not more lines upon it than has my heart on certain days.

August 29th.

I THINK Hospitals ought to be named Harbours, because they are sheltering places.

August 30th.

I PREFER timidity in argument to boldness: it betokens a more tolerant mind.

August 31st.

CONFIDENCE is all very well if we can be *quite certain*; but how many matters in this life can we be quite certain about?

September 1st.

MANY of the ancient doubts are dead, yet a few of them prick our consciences now and then.

September 2nd.

TRUTH is not always beautiful, even if a saintly friend tells us that it is so.

September 3rd.

MANY old things are good, but an old promise, so far as my experience goes, is about one-tenth as valuable as a new one.

September 4th.

ALL tender things are not true, and all true things are not tender.

September 5th.

ONE must be trustful, if one is to be merciful.

September 6th.

THE world is up-hill and hard for so many because it is customary to see what one can get, rather than what one can give.

September 7th.

EAGER hearts should go behind a banner that is carried by a cautious guide.

September 8th.

I FEAR to-morrow because I know how ill and unhappy I have been to-day.

September 9th.

THE past may be written, but we can rub out some of it by sincere regrets.

September 10th.

EVEN human hands can write a cheque in favour of the ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES, Putney Heath.

September 11th.

SAYING "Thy Kingdom come" and then doing something unkind towards a fellow creature is hollow mockery, isn't it?

September 12th.

IF for every heart that ached a guinea reached the ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES, how well-to-do we should be.

September 13th.

FOR every depth of love there ought to be some lasting tribute.

September 14th.

THE brook that gladdens the meadows is indifferent as to its chances of reaching the sea.

September 15th.

"THERE never was Winter but brought the Spring," and there never was goodness but had its reward.

September 16th.

WORDS of BLAME always seem to me to be set in BIG TYPE.

September 17th.

WE do not always let our friends know when we hear them speaking the truth; we do not wish them to know for certain how much they know.

September 18th.

WORRY and labour and care are good things, if they teach us to be broad-minded.

September 19th.

FOLDED hands are not useless, if they teach patience.

September 20th.

A VOICE in the darkness is a good reason for turning on the light.

September 21st.

ALL hearts understand many truths which they could not explain to a stranger.

September 22nd.

A LARK's singing under a blue sky is surely a message of grateful response.

September 23rd.

STEERING by the compass is good business for the sailor, but the landsman has more than one compass.

September 24th.

THE village local preacher is a good fellow, though he probably could not write a prospectus for a gold-mining company.

September 25th.

WINNING a prize is not, after all, so comforting as getting a fly out of one's eye.

September 26th.

WHY should the harmless figure One and the equally harmless figure Three, when put side by side, constitute ill luck?

September 27th.

THE shadows of human woe are only shadows; if they were mountains there would be no room for the sea.

September 28th.

GREAT corporations occasionally have small souls.

September 29th.

TEARLESS eyes do not see far, as a rule.

September 30th.

THE Woman with the "dead" calm manner does our sex more harm than good. Men have a right to expect emotion from the sex which bore them.

October 1st.

RAGING waters do not *know* why they rage: are any human creatures in the same predicament?

October 2nd.

IF I had sons and daughters I should look ahead for trouble. You see, I have observed my neighbours!

October 3rd.

LIFE is not unlike a mountain-side: it is a task to go up and a temptation to go down.

October 4th.

THE tide of charitable gifts will flow our way, I hope, for I have prayed for it.

October 5th.

"WHEN Faith and Hope are routed the devil will go on the spree!"

October 6th.

IF "love" is too scrupulously measured it sinks to "kind regards."

October 7th.

AS I look from my ward window I can see an early star: I wonder if it is keeping an appointment.

October 8th.

UNQUIET years give our faces lines and our hearts armour.

October 9th.

IF it is true that a man must be a fool sometimes, it were better that he should exercise the fooldom at home rather than at his office, or on the platform.

October 10th.

MOST days seem to be only old days. I seem to get a really new day about once a year.

October 11th.

IF we cannot atone for a wrong we have done we can, at least, be sorry and not ashamed to say so.

October 12th.

CONTENT may sometimes be only dull content.

October 13th.

WHEN we are unduly elated we ought to abstain from letter-writing, just as we ought to do when we are unduly vexed.

October 14th.

TREADING the stony way is not always uninteresting; a lover of chess will explain my meaning.

October 15th.

WHEN I drain my medicine glass to the dregs I say: "That's done with." That remark, in itself, is a relief to me.

October 16th.

I AM weak and ill : forgive me if I am complaining.

October 17th.

No frost could kill *all* the seeds of Spring-time.

October 18th.

WHEN summer days are here we cannot help thinking of cosy winter fires.

October 19th.

THE ivy on the forest tree believes in the tree ; that is probably why it thrives.

October 20th.

THE good we hope to do will not happen if we only hope.

October 21st.

SOME clouds are much too black to have a silver lining.

October 22nd.

IF we only judge when we fully understand we should not be very busy judging.

October 23rd.

WITHIN how small a compass lies most unhappiness.

October 24th.

POETS write of the "silent trees" ; yet I can hear them sighing nearly every night when I lie awake !

October 25th.

How the clouds skim by on a windy day ; they, at least, are not answering the call of an advertisement.

October 26th.

WHY fret about every little puddle that is in our path ?

October 27th.

WEEDS are cheeky little things ; they dare stare at a beautiful rose tree.

October 28th.

WHEN the hospital ward is silent I can think of tranquil things.

October 29th.

IF I am on the point of yielding to my aches and pains I hesitate and try to think of another subject.

October 30th.

SUNRISE behind clouds of gloom is a sign of change.

October 31st.

THE daisy blooms without much encouragement, yet with splendid results.

November 1st.

WE try, vainly, to plan out our lives, and we are liable to shock upon shock.

November 2nd.

I ONCE heard a woman say that we Incurables are merely "wayside stones."

November 3rd.

EVEN a wayside stone may have a wild flower or two clinging to it.

November 4th.

THE lily and the rose are no better born than the honeysuckle and the wood-violet.

November 5th.

THE rain and the sun and the breeze and the shade do not favour the rich man's garden any more than the poor man's window-box, but they seem to.

November 6th.

IT is always April in an Incurable's life; the changes are so swift.

November 7th.

THRIFT is good, if it is kind; it is despicable if it is greedy.

November 8th.

I ONCE knew somebody who was miserable because her friends thought all her griefs were over when she received a large legacy.

November 9th.

BEING Lord Mayor of London ought to educate a man, however dull.

November 10th.

To bear the strain may mean very little : the iron girder does not feel the spider's web.

November 11th.

My aching head was better when I heard some good news.

November 12th.

I THINK little children are birth-rights.

November 13th.

THE sun came up the eastern sky this morning as proudly as a young girl in a becoming dress.

November 14th.

SOME of our friends who are engaged in public work have a bad habit : they are either ill or away for a change when anything important and personal crops up.

November 15th.

I HOPE that friends who are gone away into the world, and whom I never see, are very happy.

November 16th.

FRIENDS of forty years ago, if you come back, you will find some in this Hospital whom you left behind.

November 17th.

DAY by day and mile by mile we get to the end ; we do not know why the journey is so long.

November 18th.

I'M going home—some day.

November 19th.

WHAT if my hands are benumbed and useless, if my face is happy.

November 20th.

THE Northern star may not know that I regard him as an old friend.

November 21st.

"THE little bread I have
I share, and gladly pray
To-morrow may give more—
To give away."

November 22nd.

THE longer the road the more we ought to see.

November 23rd.

IT is the young men who tell us everything
nowadays.

November 24th.

I HEAR that the world and its treasures flirt with
brainy folk only, but I don't believe it.

November 25th.

THE touch of baby's hands is joy enough to the
simple and good young mother.

November 26th.

THE sea is troubled, but it always becomes smooth
and quiet again.

November 27th.

IT is so often the persons who have done nothing
who make all the noise. Because advertising is a quiet
art, so few of us really understand it.

November 28th.

LIFE cannot possibly cheat me of the colour and the
scent and the grace of the flowers.

November 29th.

TO-DAY I do not want to die till I am good enough
for a world of bliss. Yesterday I was tired and ready.

November 30th.

No fault-finder whom I know was the first to find
the fault.

December 1st.

ARE we not to blame if we sometimes look old and
ugly? Age need not be ugly.

December 2nd.

"FULL of beauty is the path of duty," but there are
times when we feel equal to quarrelling with any
statement.

December 3rd.

THE City man may carry home fish in a basket, or sunshine in his heart.

December 4th.

WHAT could be better for wealthy folk to do than to provide a Resting Place for those who have irremovable afflictions?

December 5th.

AMBITION is a fine quality, but it is like a bloom growing on a rockery of fears.

December 6th.

A TROPHY often means less to the possessor himself than it does to his boasting acquaintances.

December 7th.

THE wine of the air on the mountain top is not better than sympathy at the right moment.

December 8th.

IF I had joy and courage I should have knowledge and health.

December 9th.

ALL the yesterdays of all the years have little tales to tell of our selfishness.

December 10th.

GOLDEN harps and dulcimers need disciplined hands.

December 11th.

THE poor old woman who sits day in and day out at her cottage window sees more than we bargain for.

December 12th.

THE old man who sits smoking in his chimney-nook does not tell all his thoughts.

December 13th.

THE little boy chorister in the white surplice is not always so good as he looks.

December 14th.

FRIENDS and neighbours need almost as much attention as a greenhouse.

December 15th.

THE bridal day is not always the climax of a girl's dreams.

December 16th.

SAINTHOOD has its drawbacks, according to history.

December 17th.

It is generally dangerous to ignore mystic barriers.

December 18th.

THE passer-by may become the comrade: much depends upon ourselves.

December 19th.

THE editor's sacrificial blue pencil may be a god-send, though the young poets cry out against it.

December 20th.

THE homeward way may be very dark and stony.

December 21st.

DEAR hearts in Heaven must know that I try to be good.

December 22nd.

To give freely is not to waste; it is to invest wisely, if the object is good.

December 23rd.

NEW worlds are always waiting, but we cannot all climb up to them.

December 24th.

THOSE who look to the future can afford to forget and forgive old disputes.

December 25th.

WE Incurables wish for everybody a Happy Christmas.

December 26th.

THERE is a shadow in the ward to-night. Perhaps the Old Year has heard that he must go.

December 27th.

WHAT men say in their wrath is not always wrong, but when angry it is better to keep one's mouth shut till one is calm.

December 28th.

THE little winter bulb is not handsome—but just you wait till May!

December 29th.

HYMNS should be all thanksgiving. Why sing unless to praise and thank?

December 30th.

OUGHT it to be Home and Rest, or were it better put to say Rest and Home?

December 31st.

OLD Year, good-bye. "Peace and shelter to you."



FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath to THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES, PUTNEY HEATH, the sum of £ , free of duty, to be paid, together with the duty thereon, out of such part of my estate as can be lawfully bequeathed for charitable purposes, and to be applicable to the general purposes of such Institution, and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of such Institution shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.

N.B.—By virtue of the "Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1891," land may now be devised to a Charity, but it is liable to be sold within one year from the death of the Testator.

FORM OF REQUEST

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

An Annual Subscriber has One Vote for Half-a-Guinea, and an additional Vote for every additional Half-a-Guinea. A Life Subscriber has One Vote for Life for Five Guineas, and an additional Vote for Life for every additional Five Guineas.

Subscriptions received at the Office, 4, St. Paul's Churchyard, E.C., by the Secretary, to whom all Orders should be made payable; by the Treasurer; by Messrs. GLYN, MILLS & Co., 67, Lombard Street; and Messrs. COUTTS & Co., 59, Strand.

In Memoriam.

Rather than spend money on the erection of Memorial Stones or Windows, why not commemorate the precious memory of those dear to you by giving money for naming in perpetuity a bed, or a ward, at the

Royal Hospital for Incurables,
PUTNEY HEATH,

a means which would not only be a lasting tribute to the departed, but also provide the additional merit of affording relief to those who are worthy objects for such practical sympathy.

In Memoriam

rather than actual money in the
form of financial relief to
Widows who are contributors to the
pious memory of their dear
one or giving money for raising in
particular a fund in aid of the

Royal Hospital for Insanities

It is a pleasure which would not only be
a lasting tribute to the departed but
also provide the additional benefit
of affording relief to those who are
suffering from mental distress.



