

TRUE HEROINES.

Courage is one of those qualities that has been much debated, and all sorts of theories have been advanced as to what true courage is. The attempt has been made to divide courage into several sub-varieties, such as physical courage, moral courage, the courage of despair, and the courage of the discharge of duty.

A short time ago the Orphanage at San Antonio was destroyed by fire. There were in it at the time eighty-seven orphans under the charge of several sisters. These latter sacrificed their lives in their efforts to save the children under their care. The result was that all the children were saved, while six of the sisters perished. Four of these were natives of Ireland, one was a native of France, and one a native of Mexico. Such deeds show that the truly brave are not limited to any one country or race. The soldier can die for his country, the sister for her charge, the nurse for her patient, the teacher for her class, and the friend for his friend. Long may such courage last as a precious blossom of the human race!

 THE CONTAGIOUSNESS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Dr. G. D. Maynard read before the branch of the British Medical Association, Witwatersrand, S.A., a lengthy paper, in which he advanced a mass of statistical evidence to dispose of the belief in the infectious nature of pulmonary tuberculosis. This paper merits some consideration. Its views are so different to what has come to be the accepted opinions of late, that, should they be wrong, they are capable of much mischief if allowed to pass unchallenged. He sums up his case thus:

1. If pulmonary tuberculosis is infectious we would expect undoubted examples of marital infection, but there is none.
2. In the case of children the problem comes to be one of inheriting a tuberculous diathesis.
3. As there is no definite proof of the disease spreading from husband to wife, or parent to child, so there is no proof of spreading in institutions for the disease.
4. The argument that falling death rate from tuberculosis is due to preventive measures is not borne out by the facts.
5. Nearly every person in Europe is infected before the age of 30, and therefore the germ is very widespread. The falling death rate is not, therefore, due to diminished risk of infection, but to increased power of resistance.