

THE EXPERIENCES OF A ST JOHN NURSE WHO WENT TO SHERBROOKE, QUEBEC, TO ASSIST IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLUENZA THERE

Miss Edna Swim of this City becomes the Unwilling Subject of a Heated Newspaper Controversy in the Eastern Townships Capital—She Was Taken Sick While on Duty There and the Policy of the Town Council Toward Her is Not in Harmony With the Views of Mr. Webster, the Well Known Cigar Man, and Others.

During the influenza epidemic the town of Sherbrooke, Quebec, sent out a call for assistance. Among those who responded was Miss Edna Swim of St. John. Miss Swim's experience is told in the following series of letters from The Record, which a friend in Sherbrooke has sent to us. It is explained that Sherbrooke in this instance appears at a disadvantage as unfortunately as happens at one time or other to most cities, we have a council acting directly contrary to the sentiment of the community, and we must stand the hostile criticism aroused through no fault of our people themselves.

Editor of The Record:

Sir—We wish to thank you in advance, Mr. Editor, for your hearty cooperation in the way of giving us space in your valuable paper in order to bring a few facts before the people of Sherbrooke regarding some features in connection with the "flu" epidemic that struck the city about a month ago.

At the first meeting of the city council and the citizens' committee, Mr. H. L. Allen and myself were appointed a committee to secure nurses and girl helpers for the emergency hospital and the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital. It was agreed at the meeting that any expenses we might incur in connection with our duties would be paid by the city. We also had permission to use the mayor's name in sending out S. O. S. calls for nurses. Mr. Allen then wired the mayors of Moncton, Fredericton, Amherst, St. John, Sydney and a number of other cities. They all, with one exception, wired that it was impossible to help us out as the nurses had more than they could possibly attend to at home. The exception was St. John, N. B. Mayor Hayes wired at once that he would try and secure some nurses for us. He was good enough to advertise in the city papers there and finally secured four nurses, and wired that they would be leaving that night. They arrived here in due time and took up their duties at once.

One of the nurses, a Miss Swim, was unfortunately enough to contract the "flu" after having been at the emergency hospital only three days and a half. She was sent at once to the Sherbrooke Hospital for treatment and was there about ten days. Being very anxious to get home and not realizing how weak she was, she left the hospital about the eighth day, and came back to the Magog House on a Thursday, and fainted away shortly after reaching the hotel. Dr. MacKay was called in to attend her.

The following day she received a letter from the city, the following being a true copy:

Miss E. M. Swim,
Care Magog House,
Sherbrooke, Que.
Madam—At the request of Ald. J. K. Edwards I herewith enclose for you the city of Sherbrooke cheque for \$45 in payment of your services as nurse at the emergency hospital for three days and a half, and return fare from St. John, N. B. With reference to the hotel bill incurred by you, you left the hospital, you will please settle for it yourself; the city will pay the hotel charges from the 11th to the 14th October inst.

Yours truly,
The Secretary-Treasurer of the City,
E. C. GATTIEN.

As soon as I heard of this I called to see Miss Swim, who handed me the letter. I immediately phoned to Mr. Allen to meet me at the city ofice, and on my way down I met His Worship Mayor White on the Magog bridge and showed him the letter, and told him that the city must not do anything of the kind, as this young lady had left her work in St. John to answer our S. O. S. call, and she must not be treated in this manner. He said he would see what he could do. I met Mr. Allen at the city office and we went and located Ald. Edwards and showed him the letter, and asked him if he had authorized such a letter, and he said he had. We discussed the matter with him for a few minutes and finally he asked us to write him a letter in connection with the matter. We told him that we were not writing letters, but that we would meet his committee any time he named. He stated that it would not be necessary to do that as the committee would do whatever he said, and asked us what we wanted. We told him that we wanted the nurse paid from the time she left St. John until she got back home, and all of her expenses. He said he could not do that, but that he might be willing to compromise. We told him this was a case which could not be compromised, and also told him that if the city refused to pay Nurse Swim that if we would pay her out of our own pocket, because if she had been allowed to return home under the conditions of the city's letter she would have been about \$10 poorer than when she left St. John, after riding all night to get here, all night to get back and absent from her home three weeks. He said he would see what he could do and let us know. I am sure anyone who did not know Ald. Edwards would be surprised at his attitude in the matter. On the following Tuesday Dr. McKay told Nurse Swim that she would be well enough to return home the next day. I immediately phoned to Ald. Edwards to see what had been done and he told me that the city had not changed their attitude, and that he had told the committee if the city did not pay Nurse Swim, Mr. Allen and Mr. Webster would. He said the committee was quite willing that we should do so. I thanked him for having given us that permission. Then I phoned to Mayor White and asked him what he had done about the matter. He stated that the city had not changed its attitude, or words to that effect, and the phone rang off.

council as a whole, Miss Swim would have been treated in a different manner. I have endeavored to place this matter plainly before the citizens, giving them the whole facts, and I now leave it in their hands to be the judges.

Yours truly,

W. R. WEBSTER,
Sherbrooke, Nov. 19, 1918.
Editor of The Record.

With reference to Mr. W. R. Webster's letter in your issue of yesterday under the heading of "An Echo of Sherbrooke's Flu Epidemic," permit me to submit the following facts in connection with the matter. Miss Swim, the nurse in question, reported at the Emergency Hospital on Friday morning, Oct. 11th, and worked on duty until the following Monday noon at which time she complained of feeling unwell, and was sent back to her hotel. The same evening she went to the Sherbrooke Hospital. Having left the hotel, her bill, amounting to \$16.60, was rendered to the Hotel Committee for payment. During her stay in the hospital I called upon her and saw that she was being well cared for, and upon leaving made the request that the advice me when she had recovered in order that the bill for her services might be settled.

If I remember rightly, she left the hospital on Thursday, Oct. 24th, about noon, and phoned me that she was leaving for St. John that evening, called upon her directly after lunch and after expressing my pleasure at seeing her about again asked for her bill. She had no bill made out, but one was prepared entirely at her dictation. She stated that the City owed her for there and one-half days' services, \$14.00, and she had paid \$14.85 to Sherbrooke. She was allowed \$31.00 for her return fare, making a total of \$45.00. I asked her about her hospital bill, but was told that there was no charge for her to pay. I informed her that the City had arranged for her hotel bill up to the time that she had left for the hospital, and asked her about further bill, and she replied that since it was only a trifling amount she would attend to it. Her cheque, accompanied by a letter from the Secretary-Treasurer, confirming her own agreement, was promptly delivered by a messenger.

Unfortunately, owing to her having left the hospital against the doctor's orders, as Mr. Webster's letter states, she was unable to get away until Wednesday evening, Oct. 30th. This changed the whole aspect of affairs, and the committee when they learned of the new situation naturally consented to look after Miss Swim, and agreed to pay her further hotel bill, and of course her hospital bill.

Miss Swim left, to charge the whole hotel bill to the city, and shortly after left Miss Swim left, an additional bill for \$29.48, which she had arranged to be paid in full from the time she came back from the hospital until she left for home. What I wish to make clear is that at no time did Miss Swim ask to be paid for more than her services actually rendered, and furthermore we do not believe she ever had any idea of receiving more until the idea was put into her head. In any event, her letter as published in The Record, if she is the unprompted author of it, is very misleading. As the matter now stands, the bills which the City has on hand to pay in connection with Miss Swim's engagement are as follows: Services, \$14.00; railway fare, \$31.00; first hotel bill, \$15.50; second hotel bill, \$29.48; hospital bill, \$20.00, making a total of \$109.98 for three and one-half days' services. No fault of Miss Swim's, as illness is liable to attack any of us.

I might further mention that before reaching any decision in regard to our plan of action, the committee took occasion to consult with competent authorities of the nursing profession, and we were guided by the usual customs that prevail.

J. K. EDWARDS,
Sherbrooke, Nov. 21, 1918.

Editor of The Record:

Sir—I really feel that it is almost unfair on my part to ask you for further space in your valuable paper to enable me to say a few words to Ald. Edwards in answer to his letter. I call a reply to my letter of the previous day. This would have had my attention before, but I was obliged to be out of town for two days. Ald. Edwards says first that "as soon as Nurse Swim complained of feeling unwell—she was sent at once to the hospital and then immediately afterwards to the hospital, and that he called on her at the hospital to see how she was receiving good care." These are Christian acts, but they do not amount to much in dollars and cents, neither would they buy a great deal of the staff of the hospital to which she was sent. He further states that as she was unable to get away until Wednesday afternoon, October 30th, that that changed the whole aspect of affairs. Just to show you how quickly an aspect can change in Ald. Edwards' vision I might say that on Tuesday afternoon, the day before Miss Swim left for home, when I phoned to Ald. Edwards to ask him when he had done in connection with Nurse Swim's case, I asked him what about her hotel bill from the time she left the hospital up to the time she would be leaving for home, and his answer was, "This is something new and I don't know anything about it." I wish to say, however, that the city did pay the hotel bill afterwards. Ald. Edwards is endeavoring to make it clear that at no time did Nurse Swim ask to be paid for more than three and a half days' work; I don't believe that Miss Swim of her own free will offered to accept of only three and a half days' pay unless Ald. Edwards had convinced her that the city had gone into bankruptcy, and that the \$14 was the dividend on her claim. I might just add right here that one of our leading attorneys informed me that he considered Nurse Swim had a legitimate claim against the city of Sherbrooke for her services from the time she left St. John until she returned home, and

FIGHTING 26TH MAN HONORED

Sgt. Maj. Holder is Further Honored—Men of N. B. Regiment Show up Well in School.

Friends of former Co. Sergeant-Major Gordon G. K. Holder, M.M., of the Fighting 26th Battalion, will be pleased to hear that he has been further honored by being awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for good work at the battle of Amiens in August. This gallant young soldier re-verted to the rank of private in order to get to France, and during the fifteen months he was on the firing line he rose step by step until he finally won his commission on the field. He has successfully completed a rigid course of training at Bexhill-on-Sea, and is now on duty with the 13th Reserve Battalion at Wilby Camp. The people of New Brunswick should be proud to know that out of six hundred cadets at the Canadian Training School, three of the four who wear the ribbons of both the D.C.M. and M.M. belong to our own Fighting 26th.

THE POLICE COURT.

In the police court Saturday one drunk pleads guilty and was remanded. A further hearing was conducted into the second charge against

he would rather like to have the account collect.

If anyone has the slightest doubt as to Ald. Edwards' meaning in connection with the whole matter I would refer them to the letter that was sent to Miss Swim on the instructions of Ald. Edwards under date of October 25th, a copy of which letter appeared in The Record over my signature on Wednesday last.

As to Ald. Edwards' insinuations that Miss Swim was perfectly satisfied with three and a half days' pay, except Nurse Swim herself, and I think that anyone who read her letter of complaint will be convinced that she was quite capable of running her own affairs and writing her own letters; and I have no hesitation whatever in saying that I think every word of her letter to Mayor Hayes will stand the light of day. As Mr. Allen and myself have been bringing Nurse Swim here I feel that the responsibility rests on our shoulders to see that she is paid for her time.

I am inclined to think that Ald. Edwards' insinuation, at least, that he and his committee have got it wrong on this deal. If he will come out man fashion and acknowledge the point instead of side-stepping and beating around the bush and showing up how much Nurse Swim's services cost the city and quoting authorities on rules that govern nurses, I would be one of the first to overlook the incident. As the matter stands now it is my candid opinion that Ald. Edwards will have as much difficulty in convincing the citizens that Nurse Swim had anything but a shabby deal as it would be for a leopard to change his spots.

Yours truly,
W. R. WEBSTER,
Sherbrooke, Nov. 26, 1918.

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THE WEATHER.

Moncton, Northern New England Monday, except increasing. Slightly warmer. New Brunswick, snow at Tuesday. North to east increasing by Monday. Dec. 1.—Since Saturday an area of high pressure has been over the Maritime Provinces, causing a fall in temperature. A shallow disturbance tonight west of the Great and another appears to be down the South Atlantic coast.

MEAT WHEN NEYS BOTHER

glass of Salts if your hurts or Bladder troubles you.

a woman who eats meat can make a mistake by the kidneys occasionally, oil known authority. Meat acid which excites the kidneys become overworked from, get sluggish and fail to waste and poisons from the we get sick. Nearly all am, headaches, liver trouble, dizziness, sleeplessness disorders come from sluggish.

moment you feel a dull ache in your back hurts or it is cloudy, offensive, full of irregular of passage or at a sensation of scalding, stop eat and get about four ounces out from any pharmacy; take count in a glass of water and in a few days the kidneys will act fine. This is made from the acid of lemon juice, combined with a has been used for years to flush and stimulate the kidneys to neutralize the acids if it no longer causes irritation bladder weakness. This is inexpensive and cannot make a delightful effervescent water drink which every- take now and then to keep your body clean and active and there, thereby avoiding serious complications.

MRS. BOYD AVOIDED AN OPERATION

Ohio.—"I suffered from a trouble which caused me much suffering, and two doctors decided that I would have to go through an operation before I could get well. My mother, who had been helped by Lydia's Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, advised me to try it before submitting to an operation. It relieved me from my troubles and I do my house work without any trouble. I advise any woman who is with female troubles to give Lydia's Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and it will do as much for you. Mrs. Mary Boyd, 1421 5th St., Canton, Ohio.

times there are serious conditions a hospital operation is necessary, but on the other hand women have been cured by the root and herb remedy, Lydia's Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, after having said that an operation was necessary—every woman who wants an operation should give it a trial before submitting to such a ordeal. applications exist, write to Lydia's Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass. The result of many years' use is at your service.

Many a fine tested recipe you'll find in the booklet "The Story of Carnation Milk." A copy of this illustrated booklet will be sent FREE to anyone who writes. Mention this paper, please.

Gives vegetables a richer flavor

FOR these meatless days cream the vegetables you serve. Asparagus, carrots, cabbage, onions, cauliflower—all vegetables are made more delicious and appetizing by creaming them. And the milk supplies, in good measure, the lack of meat.

No milk is better for this purpose, or more economical, than Carnation Milk—"from Contented Cows." For Carnation Milk is rich "whole" milk evaporated to the consistency of cream. Nothing but water is taken from it. Nothing is added—no artificial sweetening, no preservatives. Because Carnation Milk is whole milk, it gives vegetables a richer flavor without the need of adding butter. Its quality adds much to your cooking.



To reduce the richness of Carnation Milk, simply add pure water. Use it in every way you use ordinary milk. Because it is sterilized, and sealed safe in air-tight cans, it will "keep" for months. Even when the can is opened Carnation Milk stays fresh for several days. The home that uses Carnation Milk is not often caught without milk.

Order three or four cans of this rich, safe, pure milk with your groceries—your grocer is the Carnation Milkman.

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