

what to do and how to do it is not enough. "When" is another vital word in the process of achievement. The right moment is as important as is the method. A cut and dried formula, by its very nature, is incompetent to deal with human problems. Ability to meet and deal with the unusual and unexpected is the peculiar quality of leaders. Provide the ideas and furnish the energy to promote them, and the exhaustless future will bring unlooked for results. The happiness and satisfaction which the community nurse is certain to derive from her efforts are from work well done and "results" that count for the ultimate good of her people in the community.

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## HOW ONE NURSE CELEBRATED CHRISTMAS

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AS Christmas drew near, Miss Angel, the Public Health Nurse of Wellsville Center grew more and more depressed. She tried to keep her thoughts from wandering to the days when she was one of a large family in far-off England, but it was impossible to entirely banish the longing for home. "If only the sound of the Christmas carols sung from home to home on Christmas Eve could reach me, I would feel more content and it would bring good luck," she sighed. Instead the telephone rang and an excited voice begged the nurse to come at once to Mrs. Bergman in her home five miles out of the village. Miss Angel's trustworthy Ford quickly took her to the little home in the valley, to find that the only Christmas gift expected by the Bergman family had arrived and was setting up a lusty howl. Miss Angel's own depression was forgotten as she ministered to mother and new baby, and her heart beat in sympathy with the heart-broken cry of the mother: "Oh! Nurse, I saved a little money to buy a new rug and some Christmas gifts for the children, but this new child and my sickness takes it all. Now there is no Christmas for any of us." While Miss Angel was preparing nourishment in the kitchen, she talked with Mr. Bergman and heard the oft-repeated tale of bad luck, but the sentence that pierced her heart was, "Oh! if we could only have had the tree this Christmas that we planned for, such as we used to have in the Black Forest in Germany, we could be content. The lighted tree at Christmas always brings good luck." The desire he expressed was an echo of her own, and she at once determined to bring to the Bergmans a lighted tree, and other Christmas gifts.

A small fund for such emergencies as this was at Miss Angel's

disposal, and quickly making her purchases, she packed them into her little car and started once more for the lonely house with the new born babe, as the twilight came. But even Fords are not always dependable and Miss Angel found herself a mile from the Bergmans with a stalled car.

Not far away a large contracting firm was engaged upon a piece of engineering work so important that although all the workmen were released to go to their homes for Christmas, the chief engineer was obliged to stay on guard. At twilight he sat disconsolately on the gate beside the road, when he spied what looked like a tree walking down the road. He hastened to see what it could be, and discovered little Miss Angel struggling under the weight of a Christmas tree and her big baskets. Taking her load, the young engineer proceeded with the nurse towards the Bergmans and listened to her story. "I was just thinking," said he, "how I wished I could find a home where there are little children, so I could eat Christmas supper with them, and afterwards with them put out into the snow a large dish of oatmeal with sugar and butter, as we do in my native land of Denmark. The Christmas fairies will come and eat, and it brings good luck throughout the year."

And so it came about that the Christmas tree was lighted, the Christmas dish for the fairies was placed upon the snow, and the Bergman children, Miss Angel and the engineer sang the sweet carols of Christmas outside the window where the mother and new baby lay, whilst over all waved the "Stars and Stripes" of hope and promise. Thus the customs of the old lands brought the desire of their hearts and cheered and brightened the lives of a few who, having gone through the great melting pot, had become good and loyal Americans.

The story the Christmas fairies started for the little Public Health Nurse and the big engineer is one for another Christmas.

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#### HAND DISINFECTION

In the September issue of the *American Journal of Public Health* an article describing a series of experiments by John R. Conover, M.D., and John L. Laird, M.D., is summarized as follows: 1. Eupad, a mixture of equal parts of boric acid and chlorinated lime, is recommended as a substance to be employed in the strength of three grams (one teaspoonful) to 1000 cc. (one quart of water) for disinfecting the hands after contact with contagious diseases.

2. The properties required of such a preparation, and the essential principles on which the tests are based are described in detail.

3. The substances are grouped according to the element or radical which is credited with the germicidal action.

4. Condensed tables showing the action of Eupad and other substances examined are included.