

6

I did not wish to talk with him, that the U.S. Government employed me as a nurse, and that at any rate he was indulging in falsehoods. He threatened that I would hear from him.

The next day two nurses were called to the phone and told that they should appear at the Department of Justice. They appealed to Dr. Lavinder to intercede for them but he told them that they must obey orders. I accompanied one of the nurses, and this same man took her into a private room and after a half hour's interview she came out crying, saying that he had accused her of being a traitor and threatened her with imprisonment. But that is all I heard about it to this day, and I still think that he was nothing but an interned German. I might add that when playing cards with the "Count" Forty Thousand Dollars and a Code were found in his possession. This was the reason the doctors were in his company. They gave him some drugs to get information from him, as they regarded him as a German spy.

Very serious trouble now developed. On September 2, 1918, our first flu case arrived. We never realized that it was such a deadly menace. Case after case developed and many found their way to the morgue. Soon the situation was truly desperate. One day Dr. Lavinder called me to his office and said, "Miss Daly, what are we going to do if the nurses are stricken with the flu?" For the moment I was taken aback, for while I had worried about the possibility of such an emergency, I felt that planning would be futile, because we were without any reserve staff of nurses. In desperation, I suppose, I answered, "The nurses will not get sick, Dr. Lavinder!" I don't know what he thought of me but he smiled and waived me away. I qualified my statement with the rather evasive remark that should the nurses get sick, we will meet the emergency. Providence must indeed have protected us, for not a single nurse was taken ill during the entire duration of the epidemic. This, I believe, was the only hospital to have escaped the scourge. Something that may have helped was the fact that I saw to it that every nurse got her time off during the day, and a regular day off each week. I felt certain that this bit of relaxation would help to keep up their morale.

Dr. Lavinder himself was a tireless worker. At times he looked so fatigued and worried that I was often anxious about him and feared that he would collapse under the strain. And how much Mrs. Lavinder contributed to the general welfare. No words of mine can describe her wonderful sympathy and cooperation which were ever within reach both of patients and staff. Had it not been for her encouragement and kindness we could never have carried through as we did. At the beginning of the epidemic she told me to feel free to call upon her at any time for such aid as she could give. The Ladies Volunteer Corps which she established did splendid work under her intelligent direction. In the months spent at Stapleton we