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THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

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Editorial.

THE "BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING."

With the present issue the NURSING RECORD is incorporated with the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and will henceforth be known by this name. From its inception this journal has had a comprehensive aim, and it is quite consistent with its policy that it should have become imperial rather than national in its scope.

One word as to the NURSING RECORD in the past. During the stress and storm which has beset the evolution of a new profession, the RECORD has consistently supported the principles to which it was originally pledged, and throughout the fourteen years of its existence has contended for the true interests of nurses and for their organisation as a profession.

The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will work on the same lines, but its policy will be even more comprehensive. Its aim will be to link together English-speaking nurses all over the world, and we are proud to think that even before the NURSING RECORD was thoroughly appreciated in our colonies it had obtained a foothold in the United States.

The work of this Journal will be three-fold. In the future, as in the past, its pages will voice the opinions of nurses and afford an opportunity of placing them before the public. This, we believe, is invaluable to the profession at large, as no other journal in this country, either medical or nursing, has dealt justly with nursing questions. Further, realising that the interests of the public and of nurses are identical, it will endeavour to interest the public in nursing matters. This object we conceive to be a most important one. The management of public institutions for the care of the sick is largely vested in the laity. They mainly support such institutions, and in the subscribers the management is rightly vested.

Nevertheless, where so highly-skilled a profession as nursing is concerned it is certainly requisite that those who undertake the control of it; members should study and understand nursing questions and acquaint themselves with the views of experts on nursing matters. We hope that the public will read the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING and thus get into professional touch with nurses.

This Journal will further hope to interest the members of the medical profession. In the past, medical men have, to a great extent, ignored the existence of nursing as a profession. We hope to convince the medical faculty that time spent in studying nursing questions will not be wasted. Legislation for nurses is bound to come, and we look to the medical profession to identify itself with the movement in a liberal spirit, and to afford to the associated profession of nursing its intelligent moral support—a totally different thing from intolerant personal control. There are indications that both the leaders of the profession and the medical press are awakening to a sense of their responsibility concerning the education and status of the women who tend the sick. We hope that in the future medical societies will study the nursing question, and will keep themselves in touch with influential nursing societies.

But if in the past there have been omissions, and a lack of comprehension on the part of other members of the community, what of the nurses themselves? As a body have they shown intelligent interest in their own affairs? We fear not. But whatever may have been their omissions in the past, we beg them for the future to study the journals edited by nurses for nurses, and to associate themselves with professional societies in which they can have freedom of speech to discuss the problems with which they are confronted, and with which it is their duty to deal.

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