

Professional Review.

QUEEN'S NURSES' MAGAZINE.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome to the ranks of nursing journals the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine*. We heartily congratulate its editor upon its appearance and upon the matter it contains, and the General Superintendent of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, Miss Peter, on her co-operation with a scheme which it has thus been possible to carry into effect. One thing which nurses at the present time need especially to learn is that they are not isolated units, but that as units they form part of a great army whose work is to help in the healing of the sick; that if they are to perform this work in the best way they must have means of communicating with, and learning from, one another, and must also be able to speak, if necessary, with a united voice. It is, therefore, most desirable that a great body of nurses like the "Queen's" should have their own magazine in which matters of special interest and importance to them can be recorded and discussed.

The front cover of the magazine, which will be published three times a year, is in two tones of blue, and bears in white letters the name "Queen's Nurses' Magazine." The inset panel, which is of the darker shade, is suggestive of the colour of the dresses worn by Queen's Nurses, and bears a charming drawing of their distinctive badge, suspended to a cord so arranged that at the corners are four medallions bearing alternately the letters Q.N. (Queen's Nurses) and V.O. (Victorian Order). Below is the motto chosen for the magazine by Miss Peter, "Laborare est orare." The cover was designed by Lady Helen Graham, daughter of the Duke of Montrose, and it would be difficult to find one more appropriate or tasteful. The frontispiece of the magazine is a picture of the statue of H.M. Queen Victoria in Kensington Gardens, by H.R.H. Princess Louise.

Speaking of the need for such a journal, the Editor points out that "Seventeen years have passed since the Order of Queen's Nurses was established by Queen Victoria, and there are now over 1,400 of these nurses working in different districts of the United Kingdom.

"Universal recognition has been given to the value of their work, both as regards its immediate benefits to the sick poor, and in respect to its wider influence for good on the general conditions of life throughout the districts in which Queen's Nurses are established.

"These nurses form part of a great organisation which may be counted amongst the most powerful instruments of progress in the social life of our country; but they work for the most part in isolated districts, and, therefore, are out of touch one with the other; they cannot meet to confer or compare difficulties, nor can they extend to one another that personal sympathy and encouragement which is so stimulating to those who are engaged in the same work and striving for the same ideals.

"It is felt, therefore, that some link between Queen's Nurses would be valuable, and that such a link might be supplied through a periodical devoted entirely to their interests, in which questions affecting district nursing could be discussed, information with respect to developments in sick nursing given, and opinions exchanged on all questions affecting the profession."

An interesting article is that which gives briefly

the history of the Queen's Jubilee Institute from its origin and foundation in 1887 to the present time, including the foundation in 1897, as a Diamond Jubilee Gift to the late Queen, of the "Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada."

The department for "Institute News" gathers up from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales all those items of personal interest which are so appreciated by members of the same community. An article on the Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada deals with the work during the past year and shows the progress made.

Then comes the "burning question" of State Registration, which "E. B." urges nurses thoroughly to study "so as to be able to form an unbiased and intelligent opinion as to its desirability or otherwise," surely the right attitude to take in regard to this question.

Miss Amy Hughes contributes a thoughtful article on Some Responsibilities of Queen's Nurses, showing how their special work is to act as health missionaries as well as nurses, and that a nurse who does not grasp this fact has missed the reason of her special training. "Her nursing may be perfect, her carrying out of medical orders under difficult circumstances without a flaw, but if she leaves a home without having raised its standard for good in some degree she has failed to fulfil the trust given her by the nation for its people."

The Conference of Superintendents of the Northern Counties met this year at Leeds, and there is a brief summary of the interesting points discussed. One subject was, "Would State Registration of Nurses affect Queen's Nurses, and are they in any way acting individually or collectively with regard to it?"

A Queen's Nurse's account of "How I use my Spare Time" would lead one to suppose that she told of the hobbies indulged in when off duty, but her spare time seems to be devoted to arranging schemes for the pleasure or profit of her patients. Thus she says: "Ever since I became a Queen's Nurse I have been so glad that I did not give up all my music. The old 'chronics'—and I have a good many of them—do so enjoy the violin." This energetic nurse also runs a convalescent library, organises lectures, and takes patients for drives on Saturday afternoons.

A letter from a nurse in Connemara gives some idea of the extreme poverty of the patients in that district. Maternity cases in a room where a cow and calf are also housed seem of quite common occurrence. At another the tide came into the room where the patient lay on a heap of straw in the corner.

Not the least interesting portion of the magazine is the Roll of Queen's Nurses, which is published as an inset, and will appear annually. Its value is undoubted, and incidentally proves surely the fuller usefulness of a Register which would include the names of all thoroughly-trained nurses.

The magazine is printed by the Women's Printing Society, Ltd., 66 and 68, Whitcomb Street, W.C., which has attained a high standard of excellence in its printing and production.

The Queen's Nurses in the three kingdoms are to be warmly congratulated upon the high literary standard and tone of their magazine. The *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* gives it a hearty welcome, realising that its influence must inevitably be on the side of professional progress and solidarity.

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