

Last Words for 1904.

"Defer no time, delays have dangerous ends."

Our present issue is published on the last day of the old year, a day when commercial houses are busily engaged taking stock of their position so that they may know where they stand and make their plans for the future. We nurses shall do well to adopt the same course in relation to our position to the work of our choice. Let us ask ourselves:—

What work have we done for the benefit of the profession as a whole during the past year?

Have we contributed in any degree to help forward its improvement and organisation, the motive of which movement is the benefit of the sick?

What money have we given to societies organised to further these desirable ends?

What time have we devoted to studying nursing matters in the expert press to acquaint ourselves with current events?

If, on examination, we find that we have not strenuously grasped our opportunities, then let us at the close of the year, turning the page with, perhaps, a sigh of regret for the shortcomings of the past, take heart of grace for the future, and resolve that the close of the coming year shall find that, according to our opportunities and capacities, we have done our part.

To those who find that in the past year, so far as in them lies, they have given work, money, and time in the service of the good cause we offer our heartiest congratulations on behalf of the profession generally, and hope that we shall not be considered *exigante* if we ask them, at this critical period in the making of nursing, to redouble their efforts. The coming year will be a crucial one in connection with the organisation of nursing. When a Select Committee of the House of Commons is reappointed, there will be a unique opportunity for placing before the country the case for organisation. Let every nurse realise the responsibility laid upon her to help the Committee to form a just estimate as to present conditions and the best methods of dealing with them, and consider what course she herself should take in this connection. What we must bring home to the Committee is that there is at present no minimum standard, no definite system of education, no control over the body of nurses annually certified by the training-schools, and further that these schools are largely controlled by persons who are not educationalists, many of whom have little sympathy with the aspirations of nurses for more thorough training and teaching. They are, moreover, controlled by men who would be the first to own that they have no knowledge of domestic science, a science upon which good nursing is based. We have only to mention the names of Frederika Fleidner, Elizabeth Fry, Florence Nightingale, Agnes Jones, Louisa Twining, Rebecca Strong, and Mrs. William Rathbone, to prove that in every department of nursing, whether in the civil, military, Poor Law, or private nursing branches, the impetus in the past to practical improvement in details has come from a woman's brain.

And, at the present time, it is women who are arousing interest in the need for the acceptance of a definite standard of nursing education.

The names which leap at once to one's mind as leaders in the forefront of this great movement in various parts

of the world are those of Louisa Stevenson, Isla Stewart, Margaret Huxley, Adelaide Nutting, Lavinia Dock, Anna Hamilton, and Agnes Karll. Let us rally round them, remembering the pregnant saying of the late Bishop Creighton, that the strongest man is no stronger than his backing. Therefore, everyone who by work, money, and sympathy supports those in the forefront of the battle at this crisis is helping forward the consummation we all desire—the thorough organisation and uplifting of our blessed vocation.

Comments and Replies.

Ward Sister.—If you fill in the application form which is to be found on page vii. of this journal and forward it to the Hon. Secretary, it will be brought before the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. The names of all elected members are subsequently notified in the columns of this journal.

Certificated Nurse.—The Board of Nurse Examiners of the State of New York are appointed by the Regents of the University. All nurses registered by the Board must have been trained in a school approved and registered by the Regents; therefore, any British nurses who desire to work in New York State should represent to the authorities of their training-school the disabilities its pupils will be under in this State until such time as their schools have registered with the University.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the legal registration of trained nurses will find an application form on page vii., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

Those nurses who are working on behalf of the above Society, and are endeavouring to spread knowledge as to its aims, may be glad to know that they can now obtain a Memorandum giving briefly the reasons why Registration is necessary, from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 6d. for 20 copies.

Those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure the Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. Gives brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.