

THE  
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**THE NURSING RECORD**  
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**Editorial.**

**THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.**

From time to time it is well to review our position, and this week we propose to devote our editorial space to a summary of the policy of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

In the first place, the Journal stands for the principle that a professional paper for trained nurses must, to be of value to them, be edited by one of their number, and next, because "union is strength," it has always warmly supported those societies which are working for the advancement of nursing and the greater unity of nurses.

Thus the Journal is the official organ of three important nursing societies. The International Council of Nurses, whose members state: "We nurses of all nations, sincerely believing that the best good of our profession will be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose, do hereby band ourselves in a confederation of workers to further the efficient care of the sick and to secure the honour and interests of the Nursing Profession." The Council stands, therefore, for the *unity of nurses* throughout the world, a programme with which this Journal is in hearty sympathy.

Again, the Journal is the official medium of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the first objects of which are "To enable members to take counsel together upon matters affecting their profession," and "to bring about a uniform system of education, examination, certification, and State Registration for nurses in the United Kingdom." The Matrons' Council, therefore, stands for the *definition of an educational standard*.

The third Society of which this Journal is the official organ is the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Its object is "To obtain an Act of Parliament providing for the legal Registration of Trained Nurses," a necessary supplement to the Matrons' Council. It is, indeed, the development of a Sub-Com-

mittee of the Council, standing for the *protection of a standard of education when attained*. The Journal helps nurses to make public their needs and aspirations, and to organise effectively. Its distinct educational policy has gained for it both friends and foes, but its aim has ever been to be of use to the professional nurse—even if at times it may have to take an unpopular line—in contra-distinction to that of lay edited journals, which, being run for profit on commercial lines, have so far voiced the popular sentiment of the moment, rather than the true interests of nurses. If an example is needed of its usefulness in professional matters, it is to be found in the recent instance of the publicity given to the Financiers' attempt to obtain incorporation by the Board of Trade in connection with a scheme for defining the educational standard, and controlling the personal liberties of trained nurses. This Journal, *and this Journal alone*, gave the nursing profession throughout the United Kingdom the opportunity of studying the proposals of these laymen, by publishing in full the Articles of Association which had been drawn up and forwarded to the Board of Trade without consulting the nurses themselves, with the result that the opposition expressed has been so widespread and forcible that the Board of Trade has adopted the unusual course of inviting the objectors to appear in person and state their case. This instance alone proves the importance to nurses of a journal managed on a professional basis.

So long as we retain the editorship of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING it will stand for the promotion in every way of justice to, and the honour of, the nursing profession. As there are to be found in the ranks of trained nurses an increasing number of educated and thoughtful women who frequently express to us their appreciation of its work, its influence must continue to increase with those whose opinion is best worth having. We invite such nurses to make the widest possible use of this Journal for the general good.

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