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Editorial.

THE WORK BEFORE US.

We publish elsewhere an article dealing with the Minutes of Evidence given before the Select Committee on Nursing. Those who attended the meetings of that Committee, and listened to the evidence which was tendered, are aware that the honours of argument were with the registrationists, and the verdict of the Committee, advocating the Registration of nurses under a Central Board, having State authority, was not a surprise to them. Nevertheless, the announcement that the Committee had arrived at the conclusion that such Registration was desirable, was very welcome, for, short of a vote in the House of Commons, it would scarcely be possible to get a more authoritative judgment on the subject, or one which will have greater weight with the country at large. Those nurses who have worked for registration are to be congratulated, not only that they secured the appointment of the Select Committee to inquire into the expediency of Registration, but also that they were able to place before the Committee evidence which convinced it that their plea for organization was a reasonable and just one, and made in the public interest; for this consideration is, after all, one which must weigh most with the legislators of our country.

We have passed another milestone on the Registration road, but we must not sit down beside it to rest, for there is work before us. A wise general knows that if he is to secure the full benefit of a victory he must immediately follow it up. We have to do the same, to rally all hands to work for the cause which we have at heart, and never to rest until an Act for the Registration of Trained Nurses has been placed in the Statute Book, an Act, moreover, which is as wisely drafted as the combined wisdom of many counsellors can make it. For, once an Act of Parliament is passed, amendment is extremely difficult, and it is therefore important that it should be drafted on wise

and broad lines, and that details of organisation should be left to the Central Board to be appointed, rather than incorporated in the Act. In the organisation of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses we can find the means whereby the work which we would fain achieve for our profession can be made effective. The day of isolated effort is passed, for a man, strive as he may, is no stronger than his backing, and to achieve results he must work hand in hand with others. We would therefore urge all nurses interested in the question of Registration to at once ally themselves with the Society formed to attain that object, and, if they are already members, let them consider if they can induce at least one other nurse to become so, if they can secure for it financial aid, for its propagandist work entails heavy expenses, and, if they can give personal service in enlightening the public as to the necessity for the establishment of a minimum educational standard, and for the hall-marking of those who attain it. Perhaps no class of nurses have greater opportunities of reaching the public than those engaged in private work. Here a little, and there a little, in the houses of their employers, as they go about their work all over the country, they can sow the good seed, and who more likely to be listened to with consideration and respect than the nurse who, by her devoted skill, has helped materially to save the life of the father or mother of a family, or of a dearly-loved child?

Let us all take stock of our possibilities, and lose no opportunities of spreading the light, for on the work of the next twelve months very much will depend. We must spare no effort, not only to make our Bill as effective as possible, but to secure for it influential support both in and out of the House of Commons.

There are three lines which a nurse may take in regard to Registration. She may oppose it; few will do that, for the large majority desire it. She may do nothing; surely not an admirable position. It remains then for her to work for it.

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