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Editorial.

PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS.

A fact which is deserving of attention, especially when the possible results of State Registration are discussed, was effectively brought out at the recent meeting of a co-operative society of nurses. The working of that society has proved most conclusively that the professional success of a private nurse depends almost entirely upon herself. In fact, the nurse who is engaged in private nursing resembles more closely than any of her sister-workers the ordinary practitioner in other professions. In Medicine and the Law, it is a well-accepted dictum that luck may do something, and knowledge may do more, but it is the personality of the worker himself which secures, or loses, the professional success to which other causes are only contributory. It is of importance that private nurses should realise this condition in their case; because there are too many who have come to believe that they are entirely dependent upon the agency which sends them out to the public; that if the agency be popular the nurses will obtain work, while, if it is not successful, they will not secure regular employment. To some extent, this may be the case with the commercial institutions which employ nurses; but in regard to the co-operations, which represent the highest development of private nursing in this country, we believe that it will be found that more and more will depend in the future upon the personal character of the individual worker. It is a well-recognised fact, we are told, by the co-operation to which we have referred, that "a good nurse is always wanted." When she leaves them, her patients remember her with plea-

sure, and the doctor, for whom she has worked, asks for her the next time he wants a nurse. So that, after the Society has sent her to one or two cases, a first-class nurse practically makes her own practice, and at the same time assists her co-operation by making it known and respected both by doctors and the public. This is, of course, the essence of co-operation, each one working for all her fellow-workers, and all sharing in the success which each achieves, whilst the individual in her turn derives the benefit of the work of her colleagues. In Hospital and Institution work, of course, the success of the nurse theoretically depends upon herself, but it is obvious that this cannot be the case, to the same degree, as with the private nurse.

Incidentally, the fact to which we have alluded refutes one of the arguments against Registration upon which Mr. Sydney Holland chiefly relies—namely, that after a few years the registered nurse will become "rusty," and therefore Registration as a guarantee of continued fitness will, in her case, be deceptive to the public. As a matter of fact, her livelihood will depend, just as the livelihood of a lawyer or doctor depends, upon her continued ability to carry on her work to the complete satisfaction of those who employ her services.

The mere fact of her being registered by the State will not secure her employment if her character and knowledge are not sufficient to satisfy the doctor and to please the patient; and, therefore, it would be a matter of professional life and death to her to keep herself up to date in the details of her work, and to continue to prove herself thoroughly efficient in the performance of her duties.

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