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EDITORIAL.

THE LIBERATION OF THE NURSING PROFESSION.

A VICTORY THANK OFFERING.

The rejoicing of the world that at length the end of the war is in sight, and that the tyranny and brutal domination of an arrogant Empire has been broken on the wheel of justice, is taking concrete expression in the organization of various thank-offerings in commemoration of this event of soul-stirring magnitude.

Liberty, self-expression, self-determination, for the small as well as the great nations of the world, will henceforth be safeguarded by the victorious Allies, who recognize that might is not right, and that the weaker nations have an inalienable right to individuality.

When we, as nurses, consider what form our Victory Thank Offering shall take, let us remember the battle which has been waged by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses for over sixteen years, to secure for the nursing profession just those blessings which the flower of mankind has gone into battle to uphold, and thought life itself not too high a price to pay in order to secure.

Never have those nurses who have stood so faithfully for the principles of freedom and self-determination in the organization of their profession been confronted by so serious a situation as at the present time, when the employers, who have for years so bitterly opposed the effective co-operation of the Nursing Profession, are enlisting, in their bid for domination, the aid of wealth and social influence in forcing dangerous and obnoxious legislation upon the rank and file. We therefore ask those who have so generously supported the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses in the past to make their Thank Offering for Victory a donation to its funds, to enable it to carry on the campaign for the liberation of the Nursing Profession from its very dependent position.

The record of the successful work of the Society since its inception in meeting, and defeating, all past attempts to subjugate trained nurses will be found in historical sequence in the Statement on page ii of our cover; and we feel sure our readers will agree that it is a record of which the organizers of this Society may be exceedingly proud.

The co-operation (through the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses) of all the societies which had been working for the higher education and registration of nurses, through an Act of Parliament, rendered the situation in 1914 hopeful in the extreme, and had time been given by the Asquith Government for the consideration of the Bill, unquestionably it would have been placed on the Statute Book before the war. The time asked for was not conceded, and now the clear issue is again complicated by an opposition Bill drafted by the College of Nursing, Ltd. When the new Parliament comes in, however, let us hope it will settle the question in a generous and honest spirit, having due regard to the dignity of labour.

It is going to be difficult after the war for nurses to counteract the domination which social influence, and the money at the disposal of those who have monopolised the wealth of this country, can exercise. But we have had in the war a magnificent object-lesson in the all-conquering power of right, when faced with the dastardly methods of might, and those who have on previous occasions saved the profession from subjugation are quite prepared to fight its battle once again. They have every hope, moreover, that the awakened spirit of the new Parliament will see justice done to the workers.

Propagandism, with an inimical press, is very costly, and we therefore ask our readers to support those principles which the Central Committee has incorporated in its Bill, by sending their Victory Thank Offering to the War Chest of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)