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## PRINCIPAL EVENTS IN THE NURSING WORLD IN 1918.

The year now closing is one which will always stand out as a red-letter year, for two principal reasons—the cessation of hostilities and bloodshed in a war of unparalleled magnitude, and, after a struggle of sixty years' demand for the suffrage, for the granting of the Parliamentary Franchise to women in the United Kingdom.

“The old order changeth, yielding place to new,” and the measure of power thus put into the hands of women workers is only yet dimly realized. If, then, we are sometimes tempted to exclaim—

“What is that which I should turn to, lighting upon days like these?  
Every door is barr'd with gold, and opens but to golden keys.”

Let us take heart of grace and trust the prevision of the poet—

“Men, my brothers, men the workers, ever reaping something new:

That which they have done but earnest of the things that they shall do;

For I dipt into the future, far as human eye could see,

Saw the vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be.

\* \* \* \* \*

Heard the heavens fill with shouting and there rained a ghastly dew

From the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue.

Far along the world-wide whisper of the south wind rushing warm,

With the standards of the peoples plunging through the thunder-storm:

Till the war-drum throb'd no longer, and the battle flags were furled

In the Parliament of men, the Federation of the world.

There the common sense of most shall hold a fretful realm in awe,  
And the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in universal law.”

## THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE.

One thing that the war has taught the community is the supreme importance of the health of the people and of its conservation. The Bill brought in last Session by Dr. Addison, Minister of Reconstruction, to secure the effective carrying out and co-ordination of measures conducive to the health of the people, is an earnest of the Government programme for social reform and reconstruction in the new Parliament. Nurses and midwives who, coming into close touch with the people, have long been deeply conscious of conditions inimical to health, and who have been handicapped in their own work for physical and social betterment, by conditions which could and should be altered, await with impatience the opportunity of helping to influence legislation for the raising of the standard of national health. The war drum throbs no longer, thank God, on the battle fields of the world, but the trained nurse still marches breast forward against her immemorial enemies, and on the banner which she follows are inscribed the words, “War on disease and the conditions which produce it,” “War on slums and the evils which they breed,” “War on sweated labour and the misery it causes”; and on the companion banner gleam the words, “Prevention is better than cure,” “Healthy homes breed healthy people,” “A living wage for all.” May the present generation see her demands fulfilled.

## ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

An event of outstanding importance in the nursing world during the past year has been the affiliation of a number of important societies of nurses to the Royal British Nurses' Association, as the result of a conference, to which invitations were issued by Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, President of the Corporation. The Societies so affiliated are the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the National Union of Trained Nurses, the Fever Nurses' Association, the Scottish Nurses' Association, and the Irish

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