

plotation, by hospital committees and poor law guardians.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

This Society has been actively on the alert, and has, from time to time, undertaken work at short notice in the interests of the State Registration movement, when quick decisions and action have been necessary.

In the past, before the formation of the Central Committee in 1909, this Society acted as the promoter of legislation for nurses, and most carefully guarded their interests, and defeated repeated attempts made by the nursing schools to assume absolute power over their economic condition; and at this crisis in the nursing profession, when, through the constitution of the College of Nursing, this policy is most active, the Society is appealing for financial support to save alive the soul of the profession of nursing.

Should the employers' Bill be forced, by social influence, through the House of Commons, nothing will then remain to the workers but to realize that they must take part in the drastic programme for the emancipation of the people already under consideration by the proletariat.

The members of this Society have conducted their political campaign with the utmost circumspection and with due regard to constitutional procedure, but the experienced leaders of the State Registration movement in this country have never lacked courage, and they do not intend to see the nursing profession enslaved, without recourse to methods against which no form of tyranny will be able to stand in the free England of the future.

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE NURSING SERVICE.

During the year the Royal Air Force Nursing Service has been organized, with a Matron-in-Chief as chief executive officer. The members have honorary rank as officers, the Matron-in-Chief ranking a major. Neither rank nor pay, however, compares favourably with that of the members of the Women's Royal Air Force, for which the training is three weeks, while that of the nurses is three years.

THE SPIRIT OF VOCATION.

It is with thankfulness and pride that, with peace within sight, we salute the trained nurses, who have foregathered from all parts of the British Empire, and have rallied round the flag wherever its red, white, and blue floated over the sick and wounded, whether behind

the lines in comparative safety, or "standing to" under shell fire, efficient, disciplined, steadfast, putting the safety of their patients, and of fighting men, before their own, as did those also who went down into deep waters, done to death by a treacherous foe, untouched by humane feeling and regardless of the recognized rules of civilized warfare.

It is the tradition of the Navy to meet death with a cheer, and it is the tradition of the trained nurse to meet it with a smile.

A certain section of society claims to have discovered the nurse during the war, and it is the fashion to gush over her devotion to duty. But that devotion did not, as some would have us believe, awake with the roll of the war drum. It was nourished in stillness in childhood and cherished in girlhood; it surmounted difficulties in early womanhood till it gained the right to take its place by the bedside of sick and dying in hospital wards, that it might learn the best methods of caring for them, and it inspired the certificated nurse as, without ostentation, she took her place wherever her services were needed, by man, woman, or little child, bringing in her wake the skill and consolation inspired by the Spirit of Vocation.

It is that spirit which must be cherished in our hospitals if British nursing is to maintain the position it has established, and we should view somewhat with distrust the vocation which develops with the outbreak of war, and is limited in its interest to the needs of one sex.

"THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING."

This JOURNAL continues to be the only weekly organ which is professionally edited, and controlled, by nurses in the interest of the profession. It has over and over again provided practical proof of the indispensability to nurses of a voice in the press, for, without its fighting force, the profession would have been completely submerged.

The JOURNAL has always claimed a high educational standard for nurses, and the organization of the profession of nursing on a stable, self-supporting, economic foundation, in which policy it voices the views of the group of organized societies of nurses associated in the Central Committee.

The College of Nursing, Ltd., on the other hand, is endeavouring through the so-called Nation's Fund for Nurses to build up the profession on a charitable basis, raised by methods which rouse the indignation of every nurse who rightly esteems the honour of her profession.

We shall continue to claim for nurses the right of self-determination, self-support, and self-expression.

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