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EDITORIAL.

ENTER THE NURSING PROFESSION. THE NURSES' VALE, 1919.

You were a babe a year ago, where old and new
years meet,
With but a sorry heritage to trip your eager feet!
What hope and faith to justify, what ugly
wrongs to heal!
What giants in fair fight to slay for the great
human weal!
To-day we see you bowed and spent, where all the
old years stood,
We give you tears, we give you *thanks*, dear
Comrade who "made good." C. B. M.

The year 1919 will be for ever memorable in the annals of Nursing in the United Kingdom as the year which saw its establishment on the firm foundation of the professional franchise. Our thanks, indeed, are due to our "dear Comrade who 'made good.'"

Looking forward into the New Year with hope and aspiration, we realise that the immediate duty of each member of the new Profession of Nursing is to "make good." Hitherto the majority of nurses, though they may be skilled and conscientious in the performance of their duties, have given little thought to the development of nursing as a whole, for the benefit and service of the public. They have taken little trouble to inform themselves on matters which intimately concern its welfare and efficiency, and they have not studied its history and literature. For instance, how many of those who read these words have read, from cover to cover, the four volumes of "A History of Nursing," by Professor M. Adelaide Nutting, R.N., and Miss L. L. Dock, R.N.? Yet no nurse who has not, can be well informed as to the various phases of the development of nursing as a profession, or its present position in the various countries of the world.

The watchword, then, for the year upon which we are now entering should, for every nurse, be

"responsibility." Responsibility to the honourable and honoured profession of which she is a member, that she should hold its honour high, and do everything in her power to maintain and increase its efficiency and prestige. Responsibility to the community for whose service the Profession of Nursing exists. Responsibility with regard to social questions, for understanding and studying the problems which affect the community as a whole—its health, its welfare, and the underlying causes which promote or adversely influence them.

Again, there is the responsibility to support professional organisations; to carefully discriminate between the spurious and the true; and then to give personal service for the professional good. The British Medical Association, with its splendid Journal, is an example of what it is possible to achieve through organisation and solidarity. Let every member of the Profession of Nursing, therefore, go forward into the New Year determined that she will develop that sense of responsibility which is the foundation of all real progress.

"There is a time in every man's education when he must take himself for better or worse as his portion; that though the wide universe is full of good, no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through *his* toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given him to till. The power which resides in him is new in nature, and none but he knows what that is which he can do, nor does he know until he has tried."

Our sincere wish for all our readers is that the New Year may bring them happiness and success, especially the happiness which comes from the development of hitherto untested powers and talents.

"We will not anticipate the past so much, young people—our retrospection will be all to the future."

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