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EDITORIAL.

THE KING'S MESSAGE.

"It is an unfailling pleasure that each New Year brings me a message from the citizens of London. I thank them and you, my Lord Mayor, for this expression of greeting and goodwill, and I join in your hope for better times to come. Amid the universal complications left by the war, my heart goes out to all in their trials and sufferings, and I devoutly pray that in the coming year, inspired by the feeling of unity and mutual confidence, we shall together strive to restore the happiness and prosperity of our beloved country."

GEORGE R.I.

Throughout the years of war the King entered deeply into the sorrows of his People, and his Message, in reply to one from the Lord Mayor and Citizens of London on New Year's Day, is proof that the sympathy which His Majesty exhibited in so marked a degree at that time is unabated during the trials of the succeeding years. It is much that the Sovereign of these Realms realises the sufferings to which his People have been subjected during the lean years of peace, and a hopeful augury that his Ministers will endeavour to give effect to His Majesty's wish that we shall "together strive to restore the happiness and prosperity of our beloved country."

The King's words apply primarily to the general outlook, but, included in them also are, without doubt, the problems with which our profession is faced, for the greater includes the less, and after the thirty years' struggle for the organisation of Nursing as a Profession—crowned by the Victory of 1919, when the Nurses' Registration Acts received the Royal Assent—we have our special problems.

The echoes of that struggle have not yet died away. Complications are still left which call for wise statesmanship in their adjustment. Let us hope that in the coming year, in His Majesty's words, "inspired by the feeling of unity and mutual confidence," we shall together strive to restore the happiness and prosperity of our beloved profession.

In the immediate future lies an opportunity of promoting this end. In a few days the Registered Nurses of England and Wales will be called upon to elect thirteen of their number (for three are declared to be already elected) to serve on the Governing Body of their Profession, the General Nursing Council, for the next five years.

We ask the Electors to consider without prejudice the qualifications of the candidates offering themselves for election, the part they have played, or have refrained from playing, in securing the Nurses' Registration Act, whether their professional records show them to be disinterested and courageous, desiring the greatest good of their profession, and prepared if necessary to contend for it; or merely place-seekers, without adequate appreciation of the gravity of the problems they will be called upon to face as members of a Statutory Body. Are they, moreover, versed in the methods of business of public bodies? All these are points which should weigh with the electors.

If they approach the responsibilities of the Election in this spirit, we may confidently hope that the result will be the election of representatives inspired by the feeling of unity and mutual confidence, a factor which will be of the utmost value in the work of the new Council in striving to secure the happiness and prosperity of our beloved profession.

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