

FIRST ORGANISATION OF NURSES IN THE WORLD.

This Journal, then known as *The Nursing Record*, gave full support to all the activities of the British Nurses' Association (later incorporated by Royal Charter), and on reading its early pages we find that the first Executive Committee included such names as: Mrs. Deeble (Netley Hospital), Miss Hogg (Haslam Hospital), Miss Stewart (St. Bartholomew's Hospital), Miss Jones (Guy's Hospital), Miss Thorold (Middlesex Hospital), Miss Wood (Children's Hospital), Miss Sutcliffe (Women's Hospital), Miss Clarke (Western Fever Hospital), Miss East (National Hospital), Miss Mollett (Chelsea Infirmary), Miss Close (Kensington Infirmary), Miss Beachcroft (Lincoln County Hospital), Miss Gibson (Brownlow Hill Infirmary, Liverpool), and Miss Huxley (Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin).

THE GREAT CAMPAIGN FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The idea of State Registration of Nurses in the days of 1888 had already been born, for we read that a question had been asked by many—"What does the Registration of Nurses mean?"—and the following reply was given: "A guarantee to the medical profession and the public that every nurse whose name is found on the register is qualified by training and knowledge to tend the sick efficiently. Nothing more and nothing less."

With this goal in view, the Journal recorded the long crusade of the thirty years' struggle for the State Registration of Nurses.

In those early days the Journal published a series of articles from the pen of Wilhelmina Mollett entitled Honour—Pity—Courage—Discipline—Culture—Love. Alas! such attributes now seem far removed from this materialistic age.

1899

Now turn the pages to the founding in 1899, by Ethel Gordon Fenwick, our late Editor, of the International Council of Nurses and the history of its growth, its meetings and congresses, to embrace almost the whole world.

1903

The gigantic struggle for the State Registration of Nurses, against powerful opposition, from the first

Bill introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. Farquharson in 1903, until the Act was placed upon the Statute Book in 1919, provides a record of determination to overcome every obstacle and petty intrigue, and many congratulations to the pioneer's final triumph through her unswerving ability to achieve professional recognition for nurses is faithfully recorded.

Trials and triumphs in the Nursing Profession during the past sixty years have been accurately contributed by many eminent nurses with literary gifts, but we feel sure that the partnership of Ethel Gordon Fenwick and Margaret Breay must be accorded pride of place.

From the Matrons' Council of Great Britain with the late Isla Stewart, then Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, as Chairman, sprang into being the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain which, affiliated to the International Council of Nurses in 1904, adopted this Journal as its official organ, the progress of which is to be found within these pages.

1911

In 1911 this Journal published the complete words and many pictures of the Pageant and Masque performed in the Connaught Rooms, London, in support of the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which from beginning to end was an unqualified success.

We have many times been asked to publish again

this outstanding work, composed by the late Wilhelmina Mollett, which was produced to inform the public how, throughout the ages, illustrious men and women have served the sick, and handed down to their successors traditions of devotion and heroism which cannot be excelled, and which must inspire every nurse, worthy of her calling, to combine with the greater knowledge of the present, the rare courage and self-sacrifice characteristic of a long line of predecessors whom she must ever hold in honour.

1914—1918

During the first World War, this Journal had the honour of recording the great service rendered by members of the French Flag Nursing Corps, a body of 250 Certificated British Nurses which was organised by our late Editor, Ethel Gordon Fenwick, who later received from the French Government the "Reconnaissance Française."



"BRAIKIE" THE CONSTANT COMPANION AND SUPPORT.

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