

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
**THE NURSING RECORD**

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK, S.R.N., HON. EDITOR 1888—1947.

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## Editorial.

### The First Nursing Journal to be Edited and Controlled by Trained Nurses.

IN WHAT WOULD be the hundredth year of Ethel Gordon Fenwick's life, it is our unhappy lot to break the news of the withdrawal of this historic publication, which she acquired, and edited for 54 years, first as *The Nursing Record* in 1893, and then in 1903 it was renamed THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Her indomitable determination of her purpose was to see placed on the Statute Book of the land, the State Registration of Nurses.

As with many great reformers she had the strong conviction from her teens that there was a great purpose she must fulfil, thus we say many remarkable works were achieved through these columns.

#### The British Nurses Association

From her earliest experience of work in hospital, dawned the opinion of the fundamental necessity of a recognised standard of training for nurses—thus in 1887 she was instrumental in forming the British Nurses' Association (now the Royal British Nurses Association) as a body that would promote this purpose, of which H.R.H. Princess Christian became President, and presided at the first public meeting in its support in February, 1888. Thus was the first attempt at organisation of nurses in this or any other country. The State Registration of Nurses is now in force in five continents.

The Nursing Profession owes a great debt of gratitude to Her Royal Highness for her consistent and never failing support of the movement at that critical time.

#### The Matrons' Council of Great Britain.

The work of this journal, through the magnetic personality of Ethel Gordon Fenwick, recorded great achievements.

In July, 1894, in the Board Room of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the Matrons' Council was inaugurated, and the reports of the Meetings and Conferences appeared regularly in this Journal.

#### The International Council of Nurses.

In July, 1899, these pages revealed that the founding of the International Council of Nurses took place at the Second Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and thus this Journal became the official organ of the progress in international nursing affairs, and as the years passed reported the Congresses which took place in Buffalo (1901), Berlin (1904), London (1909), Cologne (1912), San Francisco (1915), Copenhagen (1923), Helsingfors (1925), Montreal (1929), Paris-Brussels (1933), London (1937), Atlantic City (1947), and Brazil in 1953.

In this review, the fine pioneers, with their singleness of purpose, inspired by Ethel Gordon Fenwick, leave for generations to come gratitude and admiration for the path they blazed: Isla Stewart and Margaret Breay (Great Britain);

Margaret Huxley (Ireland); Lavinia L. Dock, First Hon. Secretary; M. Adelaide Nutting, Annie W. Goodrich, Mrs. Hampton Robb (U.S.A.); Agnes Sniveley and Jean Gunn (Canada); Taki Hagiwara (Japan); Agnes Karll (Germany); Henny Tscherning and Charlotte Munck (Denmark); C. J. Tilanus, Verwey Megan, Fanschot Hubrecht (Holland); Baroness Mannerheim (Finland); C. Tamm (Sweden); Hester Macklean (New Zealand); Bergliot Larsson (Norway).



The late Ethel Gordon Fenwick

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