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Editorial.

THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

AUGUST is of all months the holiday month, and of all classes of workers perhaps none need, or have earned, an opportunity of being idle for a while more than nurses. In whatever branch of work they are engaged, strenuous and sustained efforts are required to keep up with the demands which our profession makes on us nowadays, and by the time the holiday season arrives most of us are nearly at the end of our tether, and ready for the rest which is only enjoyed to the full by those who work hard for most of the year.

With the holidays comes an opportunity which we shall do well to make the most of. While we are at work it is difficult to get any quiet time in which to think over our professional affairs, the work itself is all absorbing, and when night comes, and we are alone and free, brain and body are alike weary, and matters which need consideration, are put off to a more convenient season. That season without doubt comes in the holiday time, for though the holidays should mainly be used for recreation and rest, there are many quiet moments when

we may well review the work of the past year, for, when we are for a while removed from it and can consider it from an outside point of view, we can grasp our duties, our failures, and our possibilities in a way which is impossible when we are in the midst of them.

We therefore plead that our readers will during their leisure moments, while holiday making, think sometimes of their duty to their profession. Their duty to their patients we may safely assume will be in their minds, for this is, as a rule, well understood and faithfully performed. The very fact that it is so absorbing points to the danger that our public duties may be crowded out of our lives, but they are nevertheless there, urgently demanding our attention. Our holidays will be well spent if we return determined henceforth to take a greater interest than heretofore in public work, and, to narrow things down to a practical outcome, let us consider especially the question of State Registration of Nurses, which is at present a matter of primary importance; then let those of us, who are convinced that it is necessary, and that number comprises we believe the large majority of nurses, determine that henceforward they will not only wish for but work for it.

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