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Editorial.

THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME.

BELIEVING, as we do in co-operation, we are at the same time a strong individualist, and in the course of our career as a professional woman, whose work has lain amongst the non-privileged classes, we have in our contact with them seen painful instances of those endowed with exceptional abilities, whose work would, if utilized, be of the greatest value in the body politic, only succeed in accomplishing their purpose after much labour and suffering, or perhaps break their hearts in the attempt. A strong contrast is the lot of the half-dozen young men who have recently been appointed to office in the new Cabinet. They have their chance if they have the ability to use it. Of this number is the Right Honourable St. John Brodrick, M.P., the new Secretary of State for War, to whom falls the task of reforming the War Office, which, in this still inchoate Empire, is undoubtedly the most important work before the present Government.

But it is in his responsibility for the efficient nursing of our sick and wounded soldiers, that we as trained nurses, are most

deeply interested, and the re-organization of the Army Medical and Nursing Departments is the chance not only of a lifetime but of an epoch.

We know that many patriotic nurses are warmly in sympathy with the views of this journal on Army Nursing Reform, and the action of the Matrons' Council this year in offering to lay before the then Secretary of State for War a system of trained nursing for the defenders of the Empire on a satisfactory basis was of the first importance. For two reasons it is essential that efficient nursing care should be provided for our sick and wounded soldiers. (1) From an economic standpoint it is all important that the fighting power of the nation should be carefully husbanded. But, under the present methods of nursing the sick, valuable material is wasted, and the sick soldier runs the risk of permanent disablement through lack of the best medical and nursing treatment. (2) From the point of view of humanity, to neglect to afford to those who are laid low in the performance of their duty, while fighting their country's battles, the best possible chance of recovery, is a disgrace to civilization.

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