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Editorial.

THE NEW CENTURY.

AS we enter upon the New Century, with all its hidden possibilities, it is natural to speculate upon what it holds for us and what advances in nursing education and organization the close of the twentieth century will see. We have always been optimistic about the future of nursing. Had we not believed that this sweet faced daughter of medicine and surgery would in the fulness of time grow up into a dignified mistress worthy of our regard and devotion, we should not for so many years have continued our laborious duties as Editor of this journal. Loving our profession as we do, believing with our whole heart in the honourable future before it, we may be permitted after a quarter of a century of work in connection with it to speak plainly as to our convictions, the result of much study, with regard to its needs. The truest kindness is not to administer indiscriminate doses of sugar; these are pleasant but nauseating. More often unpalatable but wholesome bitters are a necessary tonic. In the first place we desire to impress upon nurses the need of individual effort both with regard to

self-development and that of their profession. If nursing is to be perfected, it cannot be by the work of a few, each one must do her share, or our best friends will have cause to complain that they cannot help us because we will not help ourselves. The want of co-operation which we as nurses deplore so much, and which is not peculiar to ourselves, but is the cause of heartbreak to all who try to organize women's movements, is attributed to two reasons. Some hold that the red corpuscle is so sparingly bestowed upon women that they do not act effectively because they have so little energy of feeling. The second theory advanced is that for generations women have been dominated by the stronger will of men, with the result that their judgment has been weakened their power of performing good work lessened. We can only argue from the particular to the general. In our own person we can feel no lack of red corpuscles, rather they run riot ever urging us on to scale heights pronounced to be impossible to surmount. We are more inclined to believe that there is a sub-stratum of truth in the second theory, for one of the saddest lessons of the past has been the conviction forced upon us of the futility of many earnest minded women who are really wishful to do

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