

with unabated hope and confidence, and with an earnest desire to see an increasing growth in "Women's Work" in all departments of our social life, more especially in the management of hospitals and all other institutions. A thousand Women Guardians have worked some wonders in the Poor Law world during the last twenty-five years, and if the power is granted them, they will do the same in other branches of work. Domestic and household management is women's part in the social fabric, and not men's, and only mischief can ensue from departing from these universally recognised arrangements and laws. The care of the sick, of women, and children, is in all lands and ages given to women, and not to men; but in the "Communion of Labour," divinely ordered, and essential to the welfare of the world, let men and women take their due and proper share of work, and all will be well. I thus bid you be of good cheer in looking forward to the coming century. If good seed is sown, surely it will spring up some day and bear fruit, even if after many days; but it must be *good* and *real* seed, not frivolous fads, or grievances, or fanciful reforms, for there will be no blessing on such.

Go on, then, in faith and trust towards the coming future, earnest and humble in your work, which *must* be blest, if done aright,—and, above all, not forgetting to give thanks for the marvellous blessings and progress which some of us have been permitted to see during the last half century, soon now to be numbered with the past.

Your sincere friend,
LOUISA TWINING.

DEAR FELLOW NURSES.

From time to time, as the years have closed behind us, we have paused for a moment in our busy lives to look back on the past, to realise the present and to peer into the uncertain future. It was not always a happy moment as we reviewed our failures, our committed sins, our omitted duties, and we let our mind dwell as long as possible on those temptations we had resisted and the difficulties we had overcome, then we glossed the whole thing over with a cloud of good intentions, and girding up our loins, went forward with renewed strength to meet the difficulties of another year. This year it is not only a year that lies closed behind us, it is a century. It is not only a year that lies dim and uncertain before us, it is a century.

I can look back on twenty-one years of work, as a nurse and among nurses, and my heart fails me when I see how little real progress has been made. Twenty years ago we were unregistered, we are unregistered still; we were without any

uniform standard of efficiency, we have got the faintest shadow of a shade, in the more general acceptance of a three years' term of training; we were then separate units, each one a law to herself, and we have now no general bond of union; we had no means of clearing our ranks of the unworthy, discreditable and untrained, we are as powerless now. It is a dispiriting retrospect, truly, but it is really more in appearance than reality, and though we stand almost where we were twenty years ago, we have during that time laid foundations over which we hope to advance rapidly in the new century. Into these foundations we have laid failures and mistakes, and in doing so we have gained a knowledge and experience which will stand us in good stead in the near future. One lesson we have learned which is worth all we have paid for it, a lesson which is writ large on almost all successful effort, if we had only had eyes to see it. "If you want a thing well done, do it yourself." The Matrons' Council has acted on it and is firmly established. The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses is the same, and although but an infant, is healthy and has already justified its existence.

To be successful one must know two things, what one wants and how to get it. Now, it seems to me that all thoughtful and earnest nurses must realise that we need *Legal Registration*, and that we can only get it by *Association*. Why should not every Training School have its League, formed not only for business purposes, but also for social meetings? Nothing strengthens our professional feeling, and makes us feel the need of unanimity so much as social gatherings. There is no greater pleasure than meeting old friends, renewing old acquaintanceship, and recalling old experiences, and how are we to have this pleasure if we have no common interest, no meeting place, no appointed day, and how can we get all these but by association? Let the words for the new century be Union and Association. When every School has its League, and when these Leagues have a central body, nursing will become a profession, ruled and guided by its own members, and submitting no longer to patronage and charity.

ISLA STEWART,

Matron and Superintendent of Nursing, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; President, Matrons' Council; President, League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses; Councillor, International Council of Nurses.

FROM AMERICA.

MY DEAR "NURSING RECORD."

A thousand good wishes to you for the new year! May you live long and prosper; and may you ever be as fearless in advocating justice,

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