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Editorial.

"MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER."

The Bishop of Worcester, in his New Year's Greeting to his diocese, gives as a motto for the Churchman's Year "We are members one of another," and describes as the true spirit of the Churchman "a great and all-embracing brotherliness and sisterliness, which leaves no one out, which can acquiesce in no wrong unrighted and no weakness unprotected." Dr. Gore's words carry weight over a much larger area than the diocese of Worcester, and it is because they seem to us to be specially applicable to the needs of the nursing profession at the present time that we reproduce them here.

A PLEA FOR PROFESSIONAL UNITY.

It is increasingly brought home to us that as a profession we must cultivate "an all-embracing sisterliness" if we are to achieve those things which duty demands and the public expects of us. Not so many years ago many voices were heard calling this way, and that, and bewildering those who looked to the influential members of their calling for a definite lead. But, to take only the question of the principle of State Registration for Nurses, of late years there has been evidence of a growing conviction on the part of many Superintendents of Nurses, who formerly withheld their allegiance from the movement, that something must be done to bring organisation out of the chaos in our ranks, to establish a minimum curriculum of education for trained nurses, and to introduce some system of discipline and control such as is to be found in every well-regulated profession. The point at issue now is not so much what shall be done, as how it shall be done, and, this being so, we plead for the adoption of a broad standpoint in dealing with a question of such general and vital importance.

It is certain that if we are to impress the public with the justice of our claim we must

sink our differences on non-essential points, and, joining hands on foundation principles, must present a united front. Personal antipathies, personal jealousies, personal mistrust, should give way before the great issues in which all have a common stake and interest. "We are members one of another," and as such should cultivate "a great and all-embracing sisterliness which leaves no one out."

How different an impression is now conveyed to the public by the want of unity in our ranks was brought home to us when placed before a philanthropic Duchess the need for the recognition of the Matrons of the training-schools in the selection of nurses for the Imperial Yeomanry Hospitals. "Let the Matrons settle their own differences," said this lady; "the want of unity amongst themselves does not inspire confidence on the part of the public." Again, the secretary of an influential society of women remarked, "It is a most extraordinary thing that whenever nursing questions come on the *tapis*, everyone seems to lose her temper." It is not good that, even in a section of society which one would not expect to be conversant with the inner workings of our calling, this is the impression which should be made by the professional relations of nurses to one another.

We plead, then, for the recognition of the good work done by various sections of the nursing community on the part of others. In view of our common need, we should concentrate and consolidate our forces, not dissipate the strength which we need to achieve a common aim by splitting up into small societies.

THE NECESSITY FOR SELF HELP.

We have always believed that the salvation of nurses must come from themselves; that, until they see the necessity of helping themselves, the work of those who most desire their good can avail little. The Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses have now, it appears to us, adequate opportunities of expressing their

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