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**Editorial.**

**WELL AND TRULY LAID.**

We are living in days of immense importance, not only to the good ordering of nursing at the present moment, but to its welfare in the future, for our lot has fallen in times when the organisation of nursing as a whole must be taken in hand, and the responsibility of every nurse is great. All must realise that the time of laying foundations is one of supreme importance, that if these are well and truly laid the future superstructure will be satisfactory, while if they are unsound the edifice subsequently raised, however imposing, will be insecure. Every nurse must realise also that even should she decide to take no part in the great movement now going on to establish minimum standards and effective organisation, and adopt the somewhat inglorious rôle of looker-on, while issues of supreme moment to herself and to the nurses who succeed her are being threshed out, none the less does she escape responsibility. Can we forget the curse pronounced on Meroz, and for what? For the policy of inaction—for doing nothing.

We cannot escape responsibility by shirking it. Therefore it becomes the duty of every nurse to study professional questions as they affect her calling as a whole, and, having carefully done so, to give her outspoken support to those whom she believes to be working for the best interests of her profession. Miss L. L. Dock, in her admirable "Short Papers on Nursing Subjects," a booklet which every nurse should read and possess, says, when summing up the nursing situation in England:—"There is in England a class of nurses who take no part or side with either one or the other of the two main divisions of the nursing world: neutrals, going their own way, doing their work, holding with neither—a steady-going and excellent set of women. Yet it seems to me it would be right for them to come out and

declare themselves. More of them would be found on the progressive than on the conservative side, and why should they refuse the aid of their moral support to those ideas with which they are most in sympathy?"

The position of spectator while great issues are being fought out is certainly not an admirable one. Surely it should rather be the aim of everyone to be able to say of the forefront of the battle, "I was there."

We, therefore, who believe that the welfare of the sick and the true dignity of our profession are bound up with the movement for the State Registration of Nurses, should not hesitate to declare ourselves openly in its favour. That an increasing number are doing so is matter for congratulation, and surely no nurse who takes into consideration the unnecessary amount of suffering endured by the sick, and which they must needs continue to endure until the nursing profession is efficiently organised, can doubt what is her duty in this matter, namely, to help forward, by all means in her power, this great reform movement.

And, though the fight be stern, let us take heart of grace, remembering the words of that great and honoured leader in the cause of social reform, the late Frederic Denison Maurice:—"For this we pray when we say 'Thy Kingdom come.' We desire that the King of Kings and Lord of Lords will reign over our spirits, souls, and bodies, which are His and which He has redeemed. We pray for the extinction of all tyranny, whether lodged in particular men or in multitudes; for the exposure and destruction of corruptions inward and outward; for truth in all departments of government, art, and science; for the true dignity of all professions; for right dealings in the commonest transactions of trade; for blessings that shall be felt in every hovel. We pray for these things knowing that we pray according to God's will."

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