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**Editorial.**

**THE EVOLUTION OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM.**

There is nothing which demonstrates more clearly the strength of the movement for professional solidarity amongst nurses than the irrefutable fact that every journal controlled by trained nurses is demanding professional organisation and legal status. For many years this journal stood alone in advocating these principles, but whether we turn to the organ of the Royal British Nurses' Association—which now that the nurses have regained some little power in that Association has come back to its original policy—to *Nursing Notes*—which, though it for long failed to realise the force of this professional demand, has now come out on the side of the nurses, convinced of the genuineness of their demand and faithfully voicing it—to the League journals—all of which are edited by trained nurses, and which without exception are loyal to the principle of professional co-operation—we find the same ruling policy, one which advocates the protection of professional standards, and the hall-marking of those who have attained them by means of a system of Registration under State authority.

In the United States—and in this connection Canada must be included with the States—it goes without saying that the *American Journal of Nursing* stands firm for solidarity, unity, and everything which makes for the better organisation of nursing; and, lastly, the *Australian Nurses' Journals* under nursing and medical influence, are gradually coming out on the side of progress, and of justice for the profession which they represent.

Look on the other picture in this country and in the United States. Both have journals purporting to be for the benefit of trained nurses, but which are in reality commercial speculations, the promoters of which had grasped this lucrative field before the movement for progress and solidarity amongst nurses

became articulate, and the financial interests of which are not always identical with the nurses' demand for educational and industrial betterment. It is superfluous to point out that in this country the anti-Registration organ has consistently opposed every movement on the part of the trained nurse for emancipation from the present chaotic conditions, and has by the most unjustifiable methods attempted to smash up every co-operative movement of trained nurses inspired with the desire for professional efficiency.

In the United States we regret to notice that the lay-edited nurses' journal is following the inexcusable example of our obsolete contemporary, and is vainly attempting to depreciate the magnificent labours of the leading nurse reformers in that greatest of republics. How vain this attempt is those know well who can estimate the force with which the movement for professional liberty and justice has swept over the nursing world at home and abroad, for is it not inspired by the best of human impulses—the desire for the good of others?

Nothing can demonstrate more clearly the futility of this commercial opposition to justice for women and nurses than the fact that its controllers have not the common sense to go with the times and help to guide the great tide of nursing progress and so save something from the disaster which will inevitably wreck them if they persist in fighting against higher forces.

Let these lay editors of so-called nursing papers realise once and for all that the day has come when trained nurses, like other professional workers, demand that their views shall go forth to the public through expert channels, rather than through those controlled by persons who do not know their needs, and have, therefore, no right to speak in the editorial sense.

It is unnecessary to labour the point that in a highly technical vocation such as nursing only those with a knowledge of the matters discussed, gained by personal experience, can usefully deal with them. It must be obvious to all:

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