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Editorial.

THE WORK FOR THE COMING YEAR.

With October the medical and nursing schools enter upon a new year of work, and in all directions there is renewed activity after a period of rest.

Those of us who are concerned with the broader issues of nursing organisation must also, after a brief respite, consider the wisest plan of campaign. A large amount of good work has been accomplished in the past twelve months by the Matrons' Council, the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, the Irish Nurses' Association, and by the majority of the Leagues of Nurses, the members of which have given proof of a commendable sense of professional and public spirit, while there is marked unanimity of aim and cordial good feeling between the organised nurses of this country on which they are to be congratulated.

The re-appointment at the beginning of 1905 of the Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the expediency of the Registration of Nurses, with the ultimate issue of the Report of the Committee in favour of this method of organisation, has made the year a memorable one in the annals of nursing. The victory gained by the Registrationists is the more remarkable because when the Committee first began to take evidence it was quite clear not only that the subject before it was one with which the members were unfamiliar, but also that the majority were instinctively adverse to the proposition before them for the organisation of this women's calling, and the enforcement by law of a definite standard of education for all who desire to rank as professional nurses. The social influence which the opposition were able to bring to bear was also a factor to be reckoned with, and it is a victory for the cause of the supporters of State Registration for Nurses, and also evidence of the ability with which

their evidence was organised, that they were able to convince the Committee of the reasonableness of the majority of their demands. The opponents of registration, on the other hand, had no convincing arguments, but merely personal opinions to offer. The ultimate result was that when the Committee eventually issued its report they were all agreed that "it is desirable that a Register of Nurses should be kept by a Central Body appointed by the State." Perhaps only those who have fought through the whole of the Registration campaign can fully appreciate the triumph of right over might contained in these few brief words.

But there is some danger lest nurses should rest content with the Report, believing that legislation is sure to follow, and we desire, therefore, to point out, at the present moment, the necessity for constant vigilance and work. We have succeeded in convincing eleven members of the House of Commons of the desirability of the registration of nurses by the State. What lies before us, in the immediate future, is to convince over 600 members of the House of Commons, and the same number of the House of Lords. This is the work for the coming year to which we desire to direct the attention of all nurses and others who are interested in the question of the organisation of nursing by the State. Either directly or indirectly we must approach members of Parliament and place the case before them, so that when the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses comes up for discussion in the House they may be convinced of its equity, and well acquainted with the reasons on which their conviction is based.

This is work which cannot be accomplished by a dozen active supporters of the movement, but must be regarded by every trained nurse as the imperative duty now before them. We commend to the nurses of the United Kingdom the work of getting into touch with members of Parliament and of keeping them informed as to the merits and progress of State Registration for Nurses.

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