

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 933.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1906.

Vol. XXXVI.

Editorial.

NOW OR NEVER.

"Only live fish swim up stream."

There are many indications that the Registration of Trained Nurses is a question the expediency of which is no longer debatable, we are within measurable distance of it.

The problem which therefore presents itself to the nursing profession is how to make the Nursing Act, which assuredly will be passed, of the greatest possible benefit to the public and to trained nurses. This duty is incumbent alike on those who have in the past been opposed to Registration, and on those who approve of it, for the time has come when all must work together for the greatest good of the greatest number.

The present moment is one of supreme importance to the future of nursing and to future generations of nurses. Once a Nursing Act is placed on the Statute Book it will be many years before any amendment is carried. We must, therefore, endeavour to incorporate in the one which becomes Law everything which we consider of vital importance, and to eliminate everything which we consider undesirable.

To attain this end we need the strongest searchlight of criticism thrown upon the propositions for legislation so that any weak points may be discovered and rectified, and every trained nurse in the United Kingdom should consider it her duty to carefully study the Bills for the Registration of Nurses shortly to be introduced into the House of Commons, and to be able to offer a well-considered opinion as to their provisions, to state which provisions commend themselves to her as laws under which she desires to work, which would, in her judgment, be harmful if carried into effect and why? But no nurse at the present time can consider herself

dispensed from the obligation of active interest in the question of the Registration of Trained Nurses by the State.

The question for each one to consider is therefore—"What am I doing to further the Registration Movement?" and let no one leave this question until she has answered it to her own conscience. There are various ways in which help may be given. First and foremost we place an intelligent knowledge of the history of the Registration Movement and of the present position of the campaign, then to those who give their adhesion to the principle of Registration (and, it must be noted, there is hardly a nurse to be found who does not, though she may not be able to give a reason for the faith that is in her) there is the obligation of allying herself with others, for no unit can accomplish effective reform, co-operation is essential to success. The means to achieve this co-operation is ready to hand in the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and its membership should include every nurse who realises her professional responsibility. Founded by a Society of Matrons with earnest convictions—for the work before it was enormous, and "only live fish swim up stream"—the Society has now a membership of nearly 1,800 nurses. This should be increased tenfold.

Lastly, a political campaign is not carried on without much expense. It has been met by the annual subscriptions of one shilling to the above society, supplemented by the generous help of a few warm supporters, by the free use of offices granted by the Registered Nurses' Society, and by the voluntary work of members which has dispensed with the necessity for paid assistance, but more funds are still needed, and we appeal to all who are able to accord the Society financial assistance to help on its Parliamentary campaign during the present Session.

The present opportunity will never be ours again. It is now or never.

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