

and dusters had to be washed for the morning, the bathrooms tidied, and many other small duties done. As the bell rang for the Night Nurses to come on duty, I made up the fire for the last time, and by its gleam looked at the picture over the mantelpiece.

It was a landscape in the dusk, and two heavy-footed labourers were trudging through a field towards the open door of a cottage. In the distance a church spire was pointing towards the sky, and underneath the picture was written,

"Be the day weary, or be the day long,

At length it ringeth to evensong."

I said "Thank God!" and went up the ward to meet the Night Nurse, who had just entered.

A nurse was not supposed to sit down while on duty, and I had been on my feet for fifteen hours, with three short intervals for meals. I enjoyed my supper of bread-and-butter and cold mutton—called by the Staff Nurses 365. Afterwards I dragged my weary limbs up the four flights of stairs, and before I was in bed my eyes were closed, not to open again until 5.30 next morning.

(To be continued.)

Educational Journals.

Nursing history is now being recorded in our professionally-edited journals, and the excellent plan now adopted in many American training schools of providing copies of these papers and magazines for the education of the nurses might well be copied in this country. If the *British and American Journals of Nursing* (which can be ordered through our office), the *Canadian Nurse* (19, Classic Avenue, Toronto, Canada), and the *Australasian Nurses' Journal* (Equitable Building, Sydney, N.S.W.), were to be found on the study table of every training school in the Kingdom, we believe that they would have the result of creating an admirable *esprit de corps* amongst future generations of nurses. All these journals are inspired by professional ideals, and teach the same lesson, that each member of a profession owes loyalty to the body corporate.

In referring to the rumour from the States that Sir Henry Burdett contemplated issuing his "sheet" in America, we presumed "that the outcome of such a move would result in the weekly issue of the *American Journal of Nursing*." This suggestion was an expression of our own opinion. We did not say that we had heard that such a change was contemplated, and indeed we learn that the organisation of the leading American nursing journal is so solid that a pseudo professional weekly would in no way interfere with its work.

The Royal British Nurses' Association and the State Registration of Nurses.

The irresponsible and unprincipled frivolity with which the Royal British Nurses' Association has dealt with the all-important question of the State Registration of Trained Nurses can be quickly grasped by studying the following facts:—

1887. The British Nurses' Association founded with the object of instituting a system of Registration for nurses analogous to that enforced by law in the case of the medical profession.

1891. The first Register of Trained Nurses was issued by the Royal British Nurses' Association, including names and *addresses*.

1894. Statement signed by the President R.B.N.A. read at Congress at Buda Pesth.

"It is the hope of the Corporation that the time is not far distant when the State will see the importance of recognising a definite Diploma of Nursing, and of giving its official sanction to the maintenance of the Register of Trained Nurses."

1896. Conference convened between the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association and representatives of bodies connected with the organisation and welfare of nurses to consider a resolution in favour of State Registration of Nurses. At this Conference the delegate of the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, Miss Wedgwood, and its Medical Honorary Secretary, Mr. E. A. Fardon, voted for the following anti-registration amendment.

"That a legal system of Registration of Nurses is inexpedient in principle, and injurious to the best interests of nurses and of doubtful public benefit."

This resolution against the principle of Registration was carried by *six* votes against *five*, that is to say, by the vote of the representative of the Royal British Nurses' Association. And this vote was subsequently upheld by the majority of the Executive Committee of that Association, although strongly protested against by the minority.

1897. Re-drafted reactionary bye-laws drawn up by the Hon. Officers of the R.B.N.A., and illegally thrust through the Executive Committee. Adopted. Nurse members were thus deprived of all power of co-operation in their own Association.

1899. The *Register of Trained Nurses*, published by the R.B.N.A. abolished, and a roll of members substituted without their addresses, thereby constituting the R.B.N.A. a *close corporation* absolutely in the power of the officials.

1902. Foundation in Great Britain of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, "To obtain an Act of Parliament providing for the legal Registration of Trained Nurses."

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