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**Editorial.**

**THE DUTY OF A PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL.**

One of the most hopeful signs of the times is the increased interest taken in matters pertaining to the general welfare of the nursing profession, as well as to their own particular work, by Matrons, Sisters, and nurses. Twenty years ago nurses were disconnected units. They scarcely knew members of their calling outside their own hospitals, and still less had they any idea of the questions which concern their profession as a whole.

Now all this is changed. By eighteen years of persistent work not only have nurses themselves become alive to the great principles in which they all have a common interest, but they have been able to give such effect to their views that there is hardly a remote place, in the length and breadth of the country, where the movement for the organisation of nursing has not penetrated, and where the general public have not formed their own opinions upon it.

The principal method by which this result has been achieved has unquestionably been by means of the **BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING**. Its articles have been read and absorbed by nurses who in their turn by word of mouth, or by placing the Journal itself in the hands of the public have informed and educated them on nursing questions.

We lay stress on this point, as we consider that one of the primary duties of the Press, whether in its general or special branches, is to form public opinion. The reading public are not for the most part experts in the questions with which their daily or weekly papers deal. What they

desire, therefore, is not that a conglomeration of statements should be placed before them upon which they must form their own conclusions, but that these statements should be dealt with by experts, who have special opportunities of forming sound conclusions on the points under discussion, and that these conclusions should be put forward and emphasised. To be effective a journal must have a policy and must voice that policy with no uncertain sound, such policy, of course, having its root in the conscientious convictions of those responsible for the conduct of the paper.

It is for this reason that the **BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING** is looked upon as the only journal for nurses in this country which has had the courage to put Cause before Commerce. It stands for principles, and to that increasing number who believe in those principles it represents all that they most care for and has proved itself a friend that stands by them in time of need, for as it has a fixed policy it is unaffected by every wind of expediency.

No greater proof of the appreciation of this Journal by the intelligent section of the nursing profession could be put forward than the financial and moral support they accord it.

As an instance of this we may mention the vote of thanks accorded to the editor at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses last week. A Meeting which greatly impressed some of the guests present, by the intelligence and high standing of the nurses who attended it. More than one expressed the opinion that it was composed of "the aristocracy of the nursing profession."

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