

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

No. 966.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1906.

Vol. XXXVII

Editorial.

THE NURSING PRESS, LTD.

Thirteen years ago when we undertook to edit the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, then the NURSING RECORD, which to-day enters on its fourteenth year of professional control, it was impossible to imagine that it would gain in this short period the influence which it exercises all over the world to-day. It was the first weekly Journal in any country to be edited by a trained nurse, and still continues to be so, and from the first we have given its professional principles a foremost place. That working on these lines it has gained the standing and position which it now holds is proof that nothing can withstand the force of principles consistently advocated.

From its foundation the Journal has supported the principle of State Registration of Trained Nurses by Act of Parliament as the only means whereby a definite standard of nursing education can be defined and maintained, and the sick supplied with a sufficient supply of competent and trustworthy nurses, and it is certain that without its aid the movement could never have enlisted the influential support which has brought the Registration question into the arena of practical politics.

Every progressive movement for the betterment of trained nurses and the improvement of nursing has first been ventilated in the columns of this JOURNAL. Thus the organisation of nursing in the United States of America by means of the co-operation of graduate nurses, who formed themselves, in connection with their training schools, into Alumnae

Associations, when brought to the notice of English nurses, inspired the formation of the Nurses' Leagues. It has also unceasingly encouraged professional unity amongst them.

Through its agency the Matrons' Council has been able to accomplish much of its programme; and it is now a weekly link between thousands of nurses in the United Kingdom, our Colonies, and the United States.

Its wider influence is demonstrated by the fact that it has also been unanimously invited to act as an official organ of the International Council of Nurses. Having been unofficially adopted by the majority of educated nurses as their official organ the last step in its consolidation was taken this year when a Company of Matrons and Nurses was formed—the Nursing Press, Ltd.—to acquire the Journal, thus making it possible for the nurses of the United Kingdom to own and influence an organ in the press as their more progressive sisters in the United States have done for some years. Announcing the formation of the Company the *American Journal of Nursing* says: "The announcement of the taking over of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by the organised nurses of Great Britain is a matter for professional rejoicing everywhere. This is an indication of splendid unity among the progressive and intelligent nurses of Great Britain, and it perpetuates the life work of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and endorses the principles for which she has struggled single-handed for so many years. We congratulate Mrs. Fenwick for this splendid recognition of her work, and we join hands with the nurses of Great Britain who have so valiantly rallied to her support."

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