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### Editorial.

#### A WORKING ALLIANCE BETWEEN MEDICINE AND NURSING.

The announcement that a three days' Conference and Exhibition is being organised by the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses to take place next month is arousing much interest, and some eminent members of the medical and nursing professions have already promised to preside at the meetings which are to be held, as well as to take part in the discussions on the various papers.

This is as it should be, for, as the majority of medical practitioners realise, medicine owes much to the assistance of nurses, who promulgate and teach in their daily work the observance of the rules laid down in connection with the laws of health by the medical profession, while, in connection with the treatment of the sick, one of the first things usually prescribed by the physician or surgeon in an acute case is the employment of a trained nurse, without whose skilled and watchful care in his absence, he is well aware that the patient's chances of recovery are considerably lessened. The practical usefulness of Conferences on subjects of mutual interest is universally admitted; whether local, national, or international in scope they are becoming increasingly popular, and it is fitting that from time to time medical practitioners should give their support to those organised by nurses, and thus demonstrate the close connection of the professions of medicine and nursing, and the working alliance which must exist between them, if the best results are to be secured.

It is true that since the foundation of the world woman's instinct has taught her to be "sweet and serviceable" in times of

sickness, but the uninstructed service she can give, by reason of her womanhood, is of a totally different quality to that of the trained nurse. The untrained woman who, professedly an amateur, does her best in times of emergency, is not blamed or blameable if her services fall far short of the requirements of the case. With the professional nurse it is otherwise. She fails in her duty if the service which she renders is not skilled and efficient. She is culpable if the patient suffers by reason of her ignorance, hence her need for searching and periodical revision of her methods.

In connection with their calling nurses not only carry out the directions of the medical profession, but they are dependent upon it for their knowledge of fresh scientific discoveries which profoundly influence their methods of work, and a nurse who does not keep in touch with the latest developments of medicine and surgery will very soon find herself out of date.

Similarly, it is of the utmost importance to medical practitioners that trained nurses should understand the principles upon which modern medicine and surgery are based. Thus, to an aseptic surgeon a nurse who has no grasp of the principles underlying his work is not only useless, but a positive menace to his professional reputation, for his most brilliant operation may be ruined by her ignorance and lack of intelligence. Rule of thumb, and work which would pass muster a quarter of a century ago will not do in these days.

Progressive and scientific medicine and surgery demand alert and intelligent nursing service. The maintenance of close and cordial relations between medicine and nursing is therefore essential to the interests of both.

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