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EDITORIAL.

IDEALS.

With the beginning of September, the holiday season is drawing to a close, and refreshed and invigorated by rest and change, in this record summer, nurses are returning to work for another year, let us hope, with renewed ideals, fresh aspirations, a touch of divine discontent with things as they are, because they have before them the vision of things as they should be: "not as though I had already attained" is as good an ideal for the nurse of to-day as when first uttered by the apostle nineteen centuries ago. Contentment with present attainments is not only the greatest hindrance to further progress, it is also a blight on the life of the individual. Struggle, achievement, victory—when a worthy end is in view—these things are the salt of life, and that life is insipid indeed which finds its satisfaction in the successes of the past, instead of pressing forward with renewed effort.

The nurse who, once her certificate is gained, ceases to study, has missed one great object of her training, which was to create in her the habit of acquiring professional knowledge, and of keeping that knowledge fresh and up-to-date. The fact that she has obtained her certificate merely means that she has come to the threshold of her heritage, that the time has arrived when she can enter in and possess it, when instead of studying on lines laid down for her by teachers and governors, she can select for herself those subjects which most interest her and which inclination or circumstances have made most peculiarly her own. But if she does not read, she must remember that the world, and especially the medical and nursing world, is constantly progressing,

and that those who do not move with the times speedily become "back numbers." For the same reason she will make a point of seeing new inventions, of attending lectures, of adding to her knowledge, increasing her qualifications, and obtaining certificates in special branches not included in her three years' training—not only for the increased financial recompense which such knowledge may bring her, but that she may increase her efficiency in the profession which she is in honour bound to practise faithfully, whether she takes a definite pledge, such as the "Florence Nightingale Pledge," or not. Her admission to the profession of nursing imposes upon her the duty of doing all in her power to elevate its standard, and of devoting herself to the welfare of those committed to her care.

The nurse who realises her duty in this sense will also know that it is not sufficient for her to discharge her personal obligations faithfully. As a member of a community she has communal as well as personal duties, and surely there is but one ideal for every trained nurse to set before herself in the immediate future, namely, to ensure for the term "trained nurse" a definite meaning, and that the sick shall no longer be at the mercy of any woman who chooses to adopt a uniform and obtain a smattering of nursing knowledge; that a professional body, created by the authority of the State, shall determine nursing standards, and that those who attain them shall have the status conferred by professional registration. We hope every reader of this journal will determine to do her utmost to secure the passing into law of the Nurses' Registration Bill in the coming year.

When the victory is won, will not every nurse desire to say, when speaking of the forefront of the battle, "I was there"?

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