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EDITORIAL.

THE TRIUMPH OF REASON.

For the last quarter of a century THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has consistently impressed on nurses the urgent necessity for the organisation of their education and work, and it has, therefore, cause for congratulation, and proof of the success of its policy, that, in spite of opposition, persecution, and deliberate boycotting, and with two lay nursing journals, run by hospital governors, to counteract its influence, its teaching has permeated not only over the world, but throughout the rank and file of the nursing profession in this country. To achieve this has entailed almost superhuman work for upwards of twenty years, but the evidence of the feeling on the question of State Registration of Nurses, and on Women's Suffrage, shown at the Nursing and Midwifery Conference last week, only corroborates our experience gained in communicating with matrons and nurses all over the country—the rank and file are solidly in favour of State recognition and protection as citizens, and as skilled workers.

Since the first Nursing Exhibition and Conference in this country, organised by this journal in 1896, public and professional opinion have been constantly educated, and the value of conference between nurses and midwives emphasised.

Concerning that just held, we have only to say that while many of the papers were practical and useful, its organisation was unfortunately very defective, and the true professional touch, which would have brought all into harmony, was absent. There was a lack of continuity and sense of fitness in the arrangement of the programme—thus a paper on "New Methods in Nursing" was sandwiched in between "How to Work up

a Connection," and "How to Start and Conduct a Nursing Home." Nor were any arrangements made for the opening of discussions, nor for summing them up. In fact there appeared to be an entire lack of professional organization. In the Midwifery Conference no midwife occupied the chair, an almost incredible omission, since there are midwives eminently capable of so doing.

But the encouraging note of the Conference was the proof it affords that the individual nurses responded instantly to professional inspiration, and their support of organization, through State Registration of Nurses was unanimous and whole hearted, and proved that nurses individually have of recent years thought out seriously these important problems. THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING rejoices that the seed sown during many arduous years of editorial labour has evidently fallen in fruitful places, and that, in the near future, we may look for an abundant harvest.

The question now is how long the nursing profession intend to permit the opposition which has narrowed down to a few autocratic hospital governors, and their reactionary officers, medical, nursing and secretarial—led by the London and St. Thomas's hospitals—and whose views find expression in the unprofessional nursing press, to stand between the sick and the organization of a thoroughly efficient professional nursing service.

It cannot be too plainly pointed out that the demand for a State Register of duly qualified nurses is made primarily in the interests of the sick, and therefore of the community at large, so that the public is equally concerned with trained nurses in promoting this reform. It has a right to insist on a guarantee of the efficiency of its nurses, and a duty to perform in impressing this upon the Government.

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