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## EDITORIAL.

### NURSES AND THE NEW YEAR.

"Welcome ever smiles, and farewell goes out sighing."

There is always a sense of exhilaration at the beginning of a New Year. Its possibilities are unknown, and its opportunities therefore unbounded. We know well the limitations of the year which has just passed, but in regard to that on which we are entering we can let our fancy run riot, and imagine that it has in its keeping, and will fulfil in due season, our heart's desire. Day dreams at the beginning of a new year are permissible, and like fairy tales, delightful.

But not for too long must nurses, who are essentially practical people, indulge in day dreams. They must be up and doing. And first we have to remember that this year will bring to many of us the happiness of meeting once more our dear colleagues from other countries, far and near, at the International Congress of Nurses in connection with the Triennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses, at Cologne, and that it behoves those of us who are members of societies affiliated to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland to do our utmost to help Sister Agnes Karll, President of the International Council, and of the German Nurses' Association, who is organizing the Congress, to make it a splendid success. Each Congress has had its distinct individuality, its special features of helpfulness, and pleasure, we could have spared none of them without personal loss, in Cologne we are sure the nurses of Germany will have much to teach us, and show us, and we know that we are to hold our meetings in the Gürzenich, the noble building erected for the purpose of providing the city with a

fitting place for the reception of those guests whom it is specially desirous to honour.

Then, to turn our attention nearer home, as trained nurses we have our legal status still to win. It behoves us all to consider whether we are doing our utmost to secure this over-due legislation. It would be "a happy new year" indeed if the Nurses' Registration Act were added to the Statute Book during the coming Session, and we could meet our German colleagues and those from the United States, South Africa, New Zealand, and elsewhere, with the right to use a legal title, instead of still being forced to own that, though the registration of trained nurses was first proposed in this country, others have outstripped us in attainment, and while State examination, followed by registration, is an accomplished fact for them, our services to the community lack this acknowledgment, that our efforts to protect the sick have not yet found fruition, and that it is open to any woman, sufficiently specious to disguise her ignorance, to describe herself as a trained nurse, and to be accepted at her own valuation, to the serious hurt and danger of the sick.

And there is no way in which those who desire to further the registration cause can do so more effectively than by supporting the official organ of the Society for State Registration of Nurses, the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, in which all news as to the progress of the movement is to be found from week to week, and which can always be relied upon to voice the best interests of the nursing profession, which are co-incident with the best interests of the sick. By asking their friends to fill in the subscription form to be found on page i, they can give the only weekly professional journal for nurses the support which it has, by its policy, many times proved it has the right to expect. To each and all of our readers we most heartily wish a very Happy New Year.

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