

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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

No. 1,289

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1912.

Vol. XLIX.

EDITORIAL.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Once again the approach of Christmas reminds us that if we wish our greetings to reach our many friends in the United States and Canada in the West, and in India and elsewhere in the East, the current issue must carry them abroad, and even so the New Year will have dawned for some weeks before the Journal delivers its message of goodwill and friendship in Australia and New Zealand.

Year by year, as we count our friends in the journalistic world, we rejoice to add to their number. For years this Journal was the only professional paper through which nurses all over the world could keep in touch with one another.

Now each of the nine countries affiliated to the International Council of Nurses has its own professionally edited paper, and to these those of Sweden and Norway must be added. Through these journals we have the joy of sharing the aims and aspirations of our colleagues throughout the world, and, while to each and all of our readers, we send hearty greetings for their personal happiness and professional success, the Journal carries a special greeting of warm regard to the group of distinguished nurses who, in all parts of the world, are valiantly voicing the interests of their colleagues, which are identical with those of the sick; women—in whatever part of the world they may be found—who, realizing the paramount necessity to the nursing profession of organs of their own in the press are undertaking the onerous task of editing nursing journals.

If devotion to duty often brings weariness, disappointment, heartache, those who have assumed this burden know that it has its joys as well as its sorrows, and its

satisfaction in work accomplished. We can wish nothing better for our friends in the journalistic world, as they take stock of their assets at the close of the year, than that it shall find them with some bit of work begun when the year was new, achieved before its close, and that the new year will bring them their heart's desire, well knowing that that desire will be for the uplift of the profession which they serve with such singlehearted devotion.

To nurses at home, wherever they are found, in hospitals, in infirmaries, in asylums, in the homes of the rich and the poor, in schools, and in institutions of all kinds, we extend our heartiest greetings. Last but not least to the midwives who in rain and sunshine, by night and by day, are to be found responding to the call of duty and carrying into the homes of the poor, for small financial reward, the knowledge and skill of the professional worker, the sympathy and strength which true women can afford to mother and child.

To the patients who are debarred from entering into the usual festivities at this season, the hearts of all nurses go out in sympathy, with the result that in hospitals and infirmaries at least, those who are not acutely ill will probably keep the most memorable Christmas of their lives, and look back upon it in days to come as a time of great and unexpected happiness. For the children, Christmas in hospital means a glimpse into a hitherto undreamt of fairy land.

For most of our readers Christmas will not mean a time for personal pleasure, rather one of extra work and endurance, yet if in the still hours of the morning they worship at the manger throne of Bethlehem they will not miss its own special gifts of joy and peace.

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