

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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

No. 1,304

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1913.

Vol. L.

## EDITORIAL.

### OUR SILVER JUBILEE NUMBER.

"It (the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING) rapidly came to be the foremost nursing journal of the world, and is the most complete record in existence of nursing affairs and progress in all countries. Fearless, aggressive, and of a consistent, unwavering policy, it has been the advance guard of nursing interests all along the line."

*A History of Nursing, L. L. Dock.*

One of the first essentials of a profession is a voice in the press in which its members can discuss matters from an expert point of view, and through which they can inform and influence the public on all matters which are for the benefit of the community generally. To fulfil both these purposes it is essential that a paper should be owned, edited and controlled by members of the profession whose interests it desires to serve, for they alone have the knowledge to deal with the subjects of which it treats, and it is an impertinence and a danger for persons who have never taken the trouble to train as nurses to presume to dictate to professional women.

It is a quarter of a century ago on April 5th since THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING made its first appearance as the *Nursing Record*, and it has therefore attained its Silver Jubilee. Realizing the supreme importance of the principles which we have expressed above we have for twenty years of this time accepted the responsibilities of the editorial chair, and controlled the destinies of the only weekly paper in the United Kingdom which can claim to represent nursing opinion, as it is the only one which is not run in the interests of newspaper proprietors by lay editors.

The younger generation of nurses will scarcely be able to realize that 25 years ago organization amongst nurses was quite in its infancy. In November, 1887, a little

group of Matrons had met at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, and discussed the formation of a British Nurses Association, and the bitterness with which their determination to help nurses to combine in a professional body was assailed in the lay nursing press, was one of the first things to demonstrate to them the importance of a professional organ. We now understand, incomprehensible as the opposition to an association of nurses seemed at the time, that all classes of workers have met with the same in their efforts for organization, and that it originates with their exploiters, whose interest it is to keep the members of any profession unorganized, and therefore impotent, and that in the case of nurses they found the readiest means with which to effect this object was to attempt, through journalistic intimidation, to suppress their justifiable efforts at organization.

This Journal, on the contrary, has kept steadily before it the promotion of the interests of the nursing profession as a whole, allowing no consideration, and no adverse criticism, to influence this policy. It has gained for nurses that liberty of speech in the public press which was hotly denied them; it has from its first number supported the movement for State Registration of Nurses which now has been endorsed by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and a Bill for which has passed the House of Lords, while all over the world the principle has found acceptance wherever nurses are organised, and in many instances has passed into law.

The suggestions for the formation of the Matrons' Council, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the nurses' self-governing Leagues and their affiliation into the National Council of Nurses, and other professional societies, have first been presented, and later brought to a successful issue, through the

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