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EDITORIAL.

OUR SILVER JUBILEE.

In this issue we celebrate our Silver Jubilee, for this Journal has each week, for twenty-five years, come before the nursing profession advocating and promoting its best interests, working for its organization, and, we are proud to know, exercising a profound influence in regard to the consolidation of our profession throughout the world, and the standard of the service it should render to the sick.

The result of this influence is to be seen in the Acts for the Registration of Nurses placed on the Statute Books of many of our self-governing colonies, and of foreign countries and states, and in the fact that in the United Kingdom a Select Committee of the House of Commons has reported in favour of the Registration of Nurses by the State; the House of Lords has passed a Bill with this object without a division, and all the organized societies of doctors and nurses supporting the principle are united in a Central Committee, and have agreed upon the provisions of the Bill in charge of the Right Hon. R. C. Munro Ferguson, M.P., in the House of Commons, and are uniting in its support.

We emphasize this primary object of the paper because it cannot be too well realized by those who are adherents of the principle, that when a Nurses' Registration Act is placed upon the Statute Book of this country THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will be the professional Journal which has fought and won this battle for British nurses, a battle, the importance of which cannot be overestimated, for the registration of nurses includes much more than the compilation of a list of names to be placed in a book. It is the foundation of all professional progress, and sound organization.

The Nurses Registration Bill gives the nursing profession the right to a voice in the regulation of its own management, in regard to the standard of professional education to be maintained, and the discipline enforced amongst its members, and when it passes into law it must exercise a wide-spread influence on the economic conditions under which those members work.

Membership of a corporate body carries with it certain responsibilities, and a nurse has definite duties to her profession and the public as well as to her patients. She has a very poor conception of her duty if she conceives she has discharged it when she has fulfilled her obligations to the one or more sick people in her immediate care. It is incumbent upon her to help to secure efficient nursing for the sick throughout the kingdom, and this she can do best by supporting the Nurses' Registration Bill. This Journal has therefore always stimulated the development of a sense of public duty amongst nurses in the interests of the sick whom they serve.

To those Matrons and nurses, throughout the world, who—realizing the great issues which are involved, and the consistency with which this Journal, keeping those issues before it, has fought for them at the risk of unpopularity—have supported it in its work for the nursing profession and the community at large, the Journal offers its sincere appreciation and thanks.

Not a few of our readers have subscribed to it from the first issue of *The Nursing Record* on April 5th, 1888, to the present number. If they turn back to that first modest venture (then a proprietary Journal unprofessionally edited and controlled) we think they will acknowledge that our aim to develop the paper on professional lines has proved how indispensable such an organ is to the nursing profession in every country.

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