

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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

No. 1,315

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1913.

Vol. L.

## EDITORIAL.

### THE DUBLIN NURSING CONFERENCE.

The Dublin Nursing Conference will long be remembered by those who were privileged to share in its deliberations with feelings of enjoyment, admiration and gratitude. Enjoyment, indeed, was inevitable when the charm of Dublin enfolded them in its spell, and when everyone, including the Lord Lieutenant, the Lord Mayor, the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons combined to honour the visitors and through them the profession of nursing.

For that is, in truth, the meaning of all the kindness and hospitality which have been lavished upon the members of the National Council of Trained Nurses during their stay in Dublin—the recognition that nursing as a craft now has its position in the body politic, and that nurses have an important place among the craftswomen of the world, that they are indispensable public servants, who, as such, have proved their right to an honourable public position, and so, the City of Dublin, which extended so charming a welcome to the trained nurses who visited its hospitable shores last week, proved thereby that the City is not unmindful of the work of the quiet band of women who keep vigil by day and by night within the walls of its hospitals; who up and down through the city each day are welcome visitors where no others have right of entry, and who, as friends of the poor, and health missionaries hold a unique position in the hearts of the people, from which nothing can dislodge them.

Having the confidence of the people, and desiring to be worthy of it, we have, during the last week, met to discuss how best we can improve our efficiency, and what guarantee we can give to the public that we are friends who will not fail them in

time of need. The result was that we devoted a whole session of the Congress to the large question of nursing education, and discussed it from various aspects, the aim in each case being to improve and perfect the education, and therefore the efficiency of the nurses. While much has been done, much still remains to do, and speaker after speaker emphasized the need for the lever of State Registration which—put in the hands of the nurse—would immensely increase the capacity, as well as the dignity and honour, of the nursing profession.

The demand for this power found concrete expression in the one resolution of the Conference, which put on record its earnest conviction that it is “absolutely necessary both in the interest of professional nurses, and of the public, whom they serve, that provision should be made for their registration by the State.”

Indeed, wherever an organized body of nurses come together, this is the one thing which, with almost monotonous insistence, they urge upon the State, and they are right in insisting that such provision should not be delayed. *The Irish Times* rightly states that “of late years the nursing profession has come to realize that it has a very just grievance which clamours for early remedy,” and states that “the withholding of a legal status from the nursing profession cannot be justified on any reasonable grounds.”

We commend this statement to the consideration of our legislature.

Of the social side of the Congress we have given a full account in this issue. We have often heard of Irish hospitality, we have now had an opportunity of enjoying it, and it exceeds all that we have ever heard, while acquaintance with its delightful, warm-hearted and lovable people will certainly impel those who have once visited Ireland to return and improve the acquaintance.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)