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EDITORIAL.

THE MOTHER OF THE PROFESSIONAL NURSING PRESS.

In the third week of September 1893, just twenty years ago, the present Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING undertook the stupendous task of conducting weekly a professional journal for trained nurses, on ethical lines, in order to make articulate a class of working women at that time more drastically disciplined, and dependent than any other class of women outside the religious Orders.

Nursing was for so many centuries the special work of "religious," that the rules and regulations which governed the nurse training schools attached to hospitals, for many years after their inauguration, in the middle of the nineteenth century, were imbued with the spirit, if not with the letter of the Cloister.

But towards the end of that century—certainly by 1893—the claims of economics demanded consideration, and the fact had been widely realised that the work of one section of the community touched, if it did not dovetail into, that of others; and to make a perfect whole it was the duty of each section to take thought, and organise, so that it could contribute to the common wealth its full quota of skilled service; service inspired by a keen civic conscience; perfected through sound instruction, and arduous practical experience.

Those who had, previous to that date, studied the Nursing Question in relation to National Health as a whole, were fully convinced that only through organization could skilled nursing be recognized and accepted as an essential and integral part of the great science of Healing, in its efforts to secure that wholeness and soundness of

body and mind, which is now the ultimate aim of Preventive and Remedial Medicine.

That was the doctrine then which THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING set itself to preach in 1893; how that doctrine has been accepted, a glance at the progress of the organization of Trained Nursing throughout the world may not unfairly prove.

Twenty years ago, this Journal was the only professional nursing weekly Journal in the world; and in this country it still maintains to-day that proud distinction. Owned, controlled and edited by professional women, journals so conducted alone have the right to claim that their aims, opinions, criticism, and demands are inspired by professional aspirations, and are the result of expert knowledge and experience. For this principle, we have had to fight strenuously from the first. Indeed from the first hour in which we accepted the responsibility of defining the principles upon which the professional nursing press should be founded, we have of course had to meet and combat the heresies of the commercial, lay-edited publications posing as the voice of professional women, and exploiting them for hard cash.

Let that pass. We can well afford to do so, when after only twenty years' work, we can turn with admiration and gratitude to nearly every country in the world where trained nursing exists, and find how the teaching of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has been taken to heart; how loyally its lessons have been adopted, and how faithfully they have been carried out.

For example, we appealed to the Nurses of the world to organize for the benefit of the community at large. How enthusiastic has been the response to that appeal, the history of the International Council of Nurses demonstrates.

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