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EDITORIAL.

THE SOLIDARITY OF NURSES.

One of the most striking evidences which exists of the solidarity of nurses is their unanimity concerning questions which vitally affect the sick. Thus at the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Cologne, in 1912, the delegates of the nine National Councils of Nurses, there represented, unanimously supported a Resolution in favour of the Organization of Nursing through the State Registration of Nurses.

The nurses of the United Kingdom will have learnt with mingled feelings that His Majesty the King has approved the appointment of the Right Hon. R. C. Munro-Ferguson, M.P., P.C., to be Governor-General of Australia; for while offering him their sincere congratulations on his selection for the honourable and responsible office, they realize that it entails the removal from the House of Commons of one who, for the past ten years, has proved himself their very kind friend, who has taken charge of the Bill for their Registration by the State, and has lost no opportunity of advancing its interests; while his great personal popularity has made him a most acceptable exponent of the principles it embodies to other members of Parliament.

To the readers of this journal, Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson needs no introduction. She is one of the limited number of lay-women who have taken the trouble to study the nursing question, and has brought to bear upon it her great mental powers and sympathetic insight; therefore, when she speaks upon it, whether as a member of a deputation to the Prime Minister, or at public meetings, and brings to its exposition the rare gifts of eloquence, of wit, of charm, and of knowledge which are at her disposal, she has proved herself a most invaluable

ally. To both Mr. Munro-Ferguson and his brilliant wife, the nurses of this country owe a profound debt of gratitude, and it is difficult to contemplate with equanimity their departure for the antipodes.

But here the solidarity of the Nursing profession is our solace. Our loss is the gain of our Australian colleagues. They, too, are working for the organization of their profession by the State. Through the Australasian Trained Nurses Association, and the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses Association, the nurses of Australia are as well organized as it is possible to be without legal registration; and they are seeking this logical consummation of their work. In the new Governor-General and Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson they will find such knowledge of, and sympathy with, their aspirations, as rarely falls to the lot of any section of workers, and they will be well advised to press forward legislation.

The disappointment of the nurses of New South Wales that Parliament dissolved last Session before their Bill had time to pass through all its stages, may be tempered by the knowledge that, when it is again introduced, they will have as the Head of the Government one whose knowledge of the question is intimate, and whose sympathy with the aspirations of registrationists is complete. We anticipate that before the Governor General of Australia returns again to this country, State Registration of Nurses will be an accomplished fact throughout the Commonwealth.

We hope long before that time comes that the Government in this country will have realised its serious responsibility for efficient nursing of the sick, and that the serious educational and economic disabilities from which trained nurses suffer, may have received the consideration which is so long overdue.

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