

Councils as the registering authority, under the Disorderly Houses Act, and representing the necessity for professional inspection if the Act was to be of use to the community.

It will be remembered that the House of Commons voted against the instruction substituting the Metropolitan Borough Councils for the L.C.C. as the registering authority, and it is probable that special danger has been averted.

Now for the future. It is imperative that the Superintendents of Nursing Homes should co-operate to protect their professional status and interests, and we are pleased to know that Mrs. Stabb has taken the initiative in the matter. She has consulted many Superintendents and found that they are fully alive to the necessity for co-operation. At a meeting held at 132, Harley Street, W., a small committee was appointed to draft the rules for a Society of Superintendents of Nursing Homes. These draft rules have been submitted to the Superintendents most interested, and in the near future they will meet and amend them if necessary—and then a meeting of all those engaged in this branch of nursing in London will be called to form the Society, adopt a constitution and elect officers. The good management of a Nursing Home requires the most arduous work and increasing attention—few people, either doctors or patients, can realise the strain, in these days of uncertainly trained nurses and indifferent domestics. It is hoped to make the new Society a real help to the members—and if other retired nurses like Mrs. Stabb, married to medical practitioners, who use nursing homes, will come forward and help with the organization, we think they will be doing a very useful bit of work for their colleagues still busily engaged in nursing—and who have very little time to spare for public work on their own behalf. Anyway, we welcome the advent of the younger generation of nurses into the field of professional organization—some of the tired pioneers are quite anxious to make way.

¶ Many people, both patients and nurses, will learn with regret that Miss Lucy Skinner, of 29, Weymouth Street, W., is giving up her Nursing Home, after ten years' arduous work, for it is one in which high standards have always been maintained and the comfort of the patients made the first consideration. We learn that the home is to be carried on on the same lines by Miss Willman and Miss Bailey, both of whom are experienced in this special branch of nursing. Before undertaking any further work Miss Skinner proposes to enjoy a prolonged rest.

It is with pleasure we record that the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., is able to show a substantial balance on the working of the first year, which has been invested for the Society by the Insurance Commissioners, and also that the Secretary, Miss Maddock, of this woman's Society has been complimented by the State auditor on the way in which her books are kept.

## WHAT THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING HAS DONE FOR THE NURSING PROFESSION.

It is essential to every profession, if it is to advance along educational and ethical lines, that it should have its own voice in the press untrammelled by commercial pressure, and this is the position in the journalistic world held by THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, just as in the medical profession the *British Medical Journal* speaks with the authority of the organized medical practitioners of the kingdom.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the official organ of the International Council of Nurses, the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland (composed of ten Leagues of Nurses), the Matrons' Council, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the Registered Nurses' Society, and the School Nurses' League.

Journals which cater for the support of a profession are of two kinds—those whose promoters, with no special knowledge of the subject dealt with, see the possibility of a lucrative venture, by purveying news dealing with its affairs, and those which are controlled by members of the profession itself, who hold its honour in their hands, and direct the policy of the paper for the maintenance of the best interests of its members.

An essential difference between the lay and the professionally edited journals is that when questions arise in which the interests of the members of the profession, and the financial interests of the journal are at variance, the commercial journal ignores the professional interest, and either leaves the contentious question untouched, or supports the point of view most likely to be advantageous to it financially, while the professional journal stands for the interests of its supporters. It therefore becomes of supreme importance to every profession to have a class journal controlled by its own members. THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, first published in 1888 as the *Nursing Record*, and since 1893 under the direction of its present editor, has during the whole of this period been a weekly voice, and the only voice, in the press in this country demanding legal status for trained nurses, and, for a quarter of a century, has stood firm and immovable in this demand. It has seen its policy so successfully adopted that, at the present time, in no less than 48 countries and States the legal registration of trained nurses is in force. The motive

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