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EDITORIAL.

ORGANIZATION IN THE AIR.

Organization is in the air. We never meet a Matron or nurse who does not feel the need that order should be established in the ranks of the nursing profession. But, to effect order and organization in any profession needs clear brains, courageous temperaments, and willing hands. Such qualities are specially necessary in nurses, as for no class is it more difficult to take individual action—fight for reform in the open—because of their very interdependent social relations—or in their overworked lives to give service. It is recorded however that for a quarter of a century there has been found a minority possessed of such qualities, and that minority has kept the claim for organization, based on self government, insistently before the public. The demand for State Registration is the demand for power to organize the nursing profession effectively, and although much has been done, until we stand firm on legal status, much well meaning effort is constantly evaporated.

Take a bird's eye view of the nursing world beyond seas. What do we see? In nearly every quarter of the globe we find National Associations of Nurses; the very pith of their being is self-government, these associations have done as men have done, claimed the right to think, to judge, to speak for themselves—and this is the only sound, secure, and useful method by which corporate bodies can exist.

We claim, and have claimed for a quarter of a century, that each individual nurse, whilst associating with her colleagues, should retain the power of the vote. Thus in the Nurses' Leagues the members choose their constitution, their officers, and equally important, vote how their funds shall be administered. The members of an associa-

tion thus form the electorate, they are encouraged to think, to confer, to speak, and act as individuals, and to the best of their ability carry on the business of the society for the benefit of all. This is a great education, it fits the members to take part in the wider spheres of national and international organization. Thus we find self government the very bed rock of good government.

The second great need felt by nurses is for co-operation on an ever extending scale. Hob-nobbing together in one League, with but the tradition of one school, does not make for breezy breadth of view, or catholic sympathies. It may, if too select, tend to narrowness and undue self-satisfaction. This is fatal to healthy expansion and straight growth. There is nothing like pushing up and out towards the light. That way lies development. The League, if isolated, is apt to become cramped; if it co-operates with others it expands. Co-operation and affiliation are therefore the next wise steps forward.

We now have a National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. Through affiliation to it, leagues and societies of nurses, whilst maintaining their autonomy, can come into touch, and the more powerfully take united action; and action is urgently necessary in many directions in the present day, when we find the trained nurse a prominent social factor in every section of the community.

Yet whilst sectional leagues and associations are constantly being formed, there yet remain in England and Wales numbers of nurses outside these groups. In Ireland the Irish Nurses' Association has long, through individual membership, guided the destiny of nursing in the Emerald Isle. In Scotland co-operation is simmering all the time, and organization will ultimately be effected on a national basis. But in England the

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