

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

Amongst the things accomplished through THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for the nursing profession, during the last quarter of a century, has been the instruction both of nurses and the public as to the need for an efficient standard of nursing education. This is the root of the demand for State Registration of Trained Nurses, voiced in its pages. For nurses, sound professional education is essential in order that they may be equipped for their work. To the public, it is a matter of profound importance, because if their nurses are ignorant, death and not life may be the result of an illness.

It was through THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING that the necessity for the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to enquire into the expediency of the State Registration of Nurses was made public, and it will be remembered that the Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., reported unanimously in favour of such Registration.

It was while this Committee was taking evidence that an effort was made by seven city financiers to obtain power through the Board of Trade to control the nursing profession, and it was through the prominence immediately given to the danger of their proposals in the pages of this Journal that this dangerous scheme was frustrated.

Again, the Journal immediately sounded the note of alarm when, in 1908, at the instance of the Central Hospital Council for London, a Bill, privately drafted, was introduced into the House of Lords for the establishment of an Official Directory of Trained Nurses, placing the control of the nursing profession, in this country, in the hands of one Government Official, and merely supplying to the public information as to the training a nurse had received without any professional guarantee as to its efficiency. This most dangerous proposition was happily circumvented, through the action taken by Lord Ampthill in the House of Lords.

Again, the Journal has constantly assisted the professional organization of nurses on self-governing lines, and has acted as the official organ of societies so formed. It has also constantly advocated improved economic conditions for nurses, and fearlessly exposed unjust exploitation of their work. It is the only weekly nurses' journal edited and controlled by

nurses, and possessed of sufficient professional conscience to resist economic pressure.

It should be taken and read by every nurse who values an independent voice in the press. In these days this is an absolute necessity if annihilation of conscience by exploitation is to be avoided.

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

DON'T FORGET

That Nurses want State Registration to secure thoroughly Skilled Nursing for all classes.

That an Efficient Standard of Nursing Education may be defined and enforced.

That the State shall provide the distinctive title of "Registered Nurse" for all who are qualified to register.

That a Central Governing Body, on which registered nurses have ample direct representation, shall maintain a high moral standard in the ranks of the Nursing Profession.

That with legal status the members of the Nursing Profession may secure just economic conditions.

That THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the only weekly journal for Nurses which has advocated this just policy, which has consistently fought for such reforms for a quarter of a century, and which has placed State Registration in the forefront of social reforms urgently needed for the protection of the public and the uplift of trained nurses.

That every nurse who values liberty of conscience, and desires her work to take its rightful place in the estimation of the public, should take the Journal which stands for professional probity, and not merely for profit, and should read, mark, learn, and then teach its ethics to the world at large.

That by such means each individual nurse will do her part in educating not only herself, but the public, and will have the satisfaction of knowing that when the Nurses' Registration Bill becomes law she has helped to make it so, and thus to benefit future generations of nurses, and to save untold suffering now the result of ignorance.

We are pleased to note that the papers are beginning to wake up on the registration question. The shortage of nurses is bringing the matter home to them. *Vote's for Women* says:—"It is no wonder that women are clamouring for the vote in order to press forward such legislation as the Nurses' Registration Bill, which, for want of the woman's vote behind it, hangs fire for session after session."

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