

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
**THE NURSING RECORD**  
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,368

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1914.

Vol. LII.

## EDITORIAL.

### THE TRIUMPH OF ORGANIZATION.

In the harmony of sound which goes to make the perfect chord there is usually one dominant note, and that which re-echoes now that the Birmingham Nursing Conference is a joy to be remembered instead of anticipated, is the organizing power expended to bring it to such a successful issue.

We noticed it beforehand in the various papers sent us, it was in evidence throughout the Conference days. Miss Musson's great talent for organization was referred to by the Lord Mayor on opening the Conference, and there was not a member who did not feel its beneficent influence.

Another factor which made for the success of the Conference has been that Miss Musson has realized, as is not invariably done, that a great hospital is a force in the social work of the city, and is indeed one of its most important constituents. Again we heard from the Lord Mayor that he constantly met with her work in connection with the larger work of the town, and the presence of the Vice-Chancellor of the University emphasised the educational aspect of nursing. She is in touch with the matrons of hospitals and infirmaries in the city and surrounding counties through the Midland Matrons' Association, she has established friendly relations with all the different sections of nurses in Birmingham—school, district, and private nurses—with health visitors, tuberculosis visitors, and social workers, and it is perhaps unnecessary to say that her relations with her own Committee and House Governor are most cordial. She therefore was able to secure valuable assistance when she began the task of organizing the Birmingham Conference.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress gave the Conference a most cordial welcome, emphasising the relation of nurses to civic life. The Bishop of the diocese spoke wise and weighty words of encouragement and caution, claiming their services as part of the integral work of the Church. The presence of Miss Bartleet, a member of the General Hospital

Board of Management, indicated the common interests of committees and their nursing staffs, and Mrs. George Cadbury's speech, from the point of view of the public, in seconding the Resolution in favour of State Registration of Nurses, showed the nurse as an important factor in the welfare of the community, and, as such, in sympathy with the work of that large section of citizens which labours to improve the status and conditions of life of some of the less fortunate members, on self-respecting lines, with which the honoured house of Cadbury is so illustriously associated. Another department of hospital life, with which nurses are intimately connected, is the Secretarial. This could have had no better representative than Mr. Howard Collins, who as House Governor of the General Hospital, Birmingham, has guided its destinies with such wisdom and success, and who fathered the Conference in the most genial manner possible.

Miss Musson's claim on opening the first Session, that it was the desire of the National Council to increase the usefulness of the trained nurse as a social factor, was fully borne out by the resolutions of the Conference. In the first, it unanimously supported the demand for State Registration of Nurses, proving that nurses realize their responsibility to the community to furnish it with evidence of competence; in the second, watchful of current events, they urged upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the Regulations in connection with the establishment of a Nursing Benefit for the insured sick shall provide "that none but fully trained nurses shall be admitted to the National Service," and in the third, mindful of the interests of that most defenceless class, the sick in small workhouse infirmaries, it respectfully called upon the Local Government Board to consider the advisability of forming a Poor Law Nursing Service. The power for good of the nurse, if she will realize her force as part of the great social system, instead of restricting her influence to that of an isolated class, is practically unlimited. Through the National Council of Trained Nurses she has the opportunity of establishing these national and international relations.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)