

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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

No. 1,383

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1914.

Vol. LIII.

EDITORIAL.

STATE REGISTRATION AND THE WAR.

Parliament which was recently prorogued, will meet again at the end of October, so that there is very little time before earnest registrationists must be up and doing. A meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses will be held on October 22nd, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., to decide on our future plan of campaign, after which time, we must not let the grass grow under our feet, as the urgent necessity for the adoption of a recognizable standard of nursing by the State, has never been more clearly demonstrated than in the arrangements being made on all sides for the nursing of the sick and wounded.

Not for one moment would we damp the ardour, quickened by patriotism in every true woman's heart, which prompts her to offer help to the brave men who protect our dear country in time of War, but it is only just to a large body of hard-worked and highly skilled workers, the trained nurses of the country, who devote themselves to the care of the sick during peace—that they should have, as the medical profession has, a well defined professional status in time of war.

LOOK AROUND.

But look around, what do we find? We find every other woman whether she has been trained or not, wearing the trained nurse's uniform, often with decorative additions of crosses and badges. Worse, we find so much confusion in the public mind, as to what qualification a nurse should possess—that as long as she observes the outward appearance of inward grace, by wearing uniform, it is apparently quite satisfied that money which it subscribes in hundreds of thousands, should be utilised in financing hospitals at the front, in the economy of which trained nursing has absolutely no definite significance, and in which the office of Matron is non-existent.

THE UNTRAINED SUPERINTENDENT.

Peeresses and other unprofessional ladies eagerly constitute themselves Lady Superintendents of such units, and the trained professional woman, if she hopes to go to the front at all, must be content to work under the domination of such ladies, of which many nurses had a bitter experience in the South African War. Excluding the regular Military hospitals attached to the Army in the field, provided with highly skilled Matrons and Sisters by the War Office, and the fine body of Matrons and Nurses enrolled in the Territorial Force Nursing Service, anyone who can get the cash to finance a hospital, can, and has rushed off to Belgium, and France. And until the recent appointment of Mrs. Ludlow, R.R.C., by the British Red Cross Society—as Lady Superintendent of its Base Hospital at Rouen, there does not appear to be one Matron of experience, who holds a leading position at home, in charge of any of the war hospitals abroad. How unfair it is to supersede trained Matrons by women of social eminence, will become apparent later, when honours bestowed for services rendered to the sick and wounded at the front, flow from the Fount of all Honour!

AMERICA GIVES US A LEAD.

In this connection, the United States of America gives us a lead. In organizing the Nursing Department of the "Red Cross" contingent sent to Europe, we find it of course superintended by a highly trained woman, Miss Helen Scott Hay, who has filled with distinction some of the foremost and most responsible professional positions in the American Nursing World. If we ask ourselves why a New York Multi-Millionairess was not entrusted with this charge, we answer unhesitatingly—because in the majority of American States, Acts are in force for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and when the sick need nursing and

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