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EDITORIAL.

THE VISION OF THE FUTURE.

The deliverance of any class of workers from economic subjection is never accomplished without a struggle, which is often long, bitter and relentless, for the reason that such deliverance means better conditions of work and pay for the class concerned, and therefore greater expense to those who have previously made large profits from their work.

There is ample demonstration of this so far as the professions and trades of men are concerned, and when women's professions are involved the situation is incredible to those who do not understand underlying causes. It is infinitely to the credit of women who do understand the forces which they have to combat, yet that because of the vision of the future which shall dawn when the goal is attained so many have deliberately chosen the difficult way, and sacrificed material welfare, personal happiness, health, and even life itself, in order to be faithful to that inner voice which impels them to a certain course of action.

An example of this is to be found in the movement of women to obtain the political enfranchisement of their sex. A wealth of devotion and heroism has been poured out upon it by women of many nationalities and tongues, and still more are ready to step into the ranks.

The movement for the organisation of nursing as a profession, involving also their economic freedom, is one which has demanded self-sacrifice and devotion for the past thirty years in no small degree—a degree, indeed, not anticipated when the registration banner first floated out bravely, now over a quarter of a century ago. But,

through evil report and good report, it has always been held aloft, and we have confidence that it will be faithfully guarded until the last fortress of ignorance, prejudice, of self-interest, falls before the invincible power of right. For that is the compelling force which sustains women in their unequal fight.

Recently there has been an indication that prominent Matrons who have hitherto held aloof from the movement for organization of the nursing profession are now convinced of its necessity, and ready to take part in the work. We cannot refrain from wondering if they realize the forces they are "up against," that is if we are to have the kernel as well as the husk.

If a profession in the future is to develop on healthy and progressive lines its members must secure reasonable powers of self government. But this is precisely what affects the vested interests of those who hitherto have dealt with an unorganized body of workers, and therefore where difficulty is likely to arise in reconciling diverse interests. Therefore experience, tact and political knowledge, as well as a grip of the question as it affects the workers, and loyalty to their interests, are all factors affecting a situation which simple as it may appear on the surface is really extremely complex.

Few people probably understand how great a tax the struggle for the organization of women's professions imposes upon those who bear the brunt of the battle. Indeed it is only comparatively few whose physical strength is equal to the strain. Some of the best gifts with which women can be endowed are physical fitness and the power of endurance, but fortified by these and sustained by the vision of the future there are few things that they cannot accomplish.

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