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EDITORIAL.

PLIGHTED FAITH AND DUTY.

We pass through this world but once, and in our passage we have to determine the forces which shall dominate our movements across the sea of life, with its various currents, its strong influences. We may trim our sails with the wind, we may allow ourselves to drift, the sport of every wind that blows, we may put our barque out to sea only in fair weather, or we may set our compass for a certain port, and determine, come fair weather or foul, if human endeavour can achieve it, we will make that port.

When in determining our course we are associated with others our duty is accentuated, it constrains us to stand by those with whom we have entered on the brave adventure.

Are we at the helm? It behoves us to steer the ship's course straight, to be on the alert lest we are misled, by false lights, to guide it upon the rocks; to be in all things wise to foresee, quick to apprehend, decided in action, loyal to plighted faith and duty. Those are the qualities which in the past have set this nation in the forefront, made it respected by its friends and feared by its foes. Both as a profession, and as individuals it behoves us to steer a straight course, unblinded by the dust of self-interest, undaunted by adversity, and unspoiled by prosperity.

There are many of us who, at the beginning of our professional career, subscribed, perhaps carelessly, to the principle of State Registration of Nurses. It seemed so just, so obvious, we were so sure to get it. But we did not appreciate the strong adverse currents which would affect the ship in which we set sail with such high hopes, or the storms which it would encounter before it dropped anchor—storms of prejudice, of

autocracy, of privilege, of vested interests, of greed of gold. We realized as time went on that the goal would not be easy to make, that to attain it would mean that we must spend laborious days, that we must lighten the ship of pleasant things, which—quite legitimate under sunny skies—would divert our attention, and so impede our progress in stormy seas. We realized that a life of high endeavour does not appeal to all, that there are many who while willing to sail with us when the seas are calm desire to put into port during a storm.

That has never been the policy of the convinced legal registrationists. To keep the good ship water tight, to clear the decks for action, to steer straight whether through calm or stormy seas for the desired haven, that has been the lifelong endeavour of the majority of those who embarked more than a quarter of a century ago, and some of whom have laid down their lives before the port was reached, but who never faltered in their determination to hold on to the end, and who when their hands were folded in rest at last, died in the faith that others as true and loyal would guide the ship they had served so well until it anchored safely in harbour.

In loyalty to those dear comrades, leal and true, with whom we have weathered so many storms, in loyalty to the living, to the sick public, and to the rank and file of the nurses, whose interests we have espoused, and regard as a sacred trust, we invite all those who are convinced that a satisfactory system of legal registration is the only adequate one, to bend every endeavour at the present time to further the cause to which they have plighted their troth, though the hope of attaining their desire by means of alluring detours into other ports should deceive even the very elect.

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