

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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

No. 1,512.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1917.

Vol. LVIII.

EDITORIAL.

"THE DAY."

With a suddenness as dramatic as it is complete the sceptre has passed from the hands of the Autocrat of All the Russias into those of the People for the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, in whose favour the Tzar has renounced his crown on behalf of himself and his son, has declared that he will only accept it if elected by the representatives of the People.

With the Navy and the Army on the side of the Duma, the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul in its hands, and utilized as the head-quarters of the revolutionary force, its triumph was complete. Quickly it seized the abhorred Kresty Prison and released all political prisoners. The head quarters of the secret police were burned, and, with them all the archives and papers relating to political personages and organizations. The Arsenal, the Admiralty, the Imperial Winter Palace and the Departments of State were then seized.

According to a communication from a Russian diplomatic source "The inadequacy of the old régime, and its irresponsibility made a change inevitable. The people had no redress and corruption went on unchecked . . . What has happened is the freeing of the great Empire from the shackles which have bound her, and can be regarded as a new guarantee that Russia will wage the war with intensified energy to reach the goal which she and her Allies have in view."

The Cabinet, chosen by the People, has quickly outlined its policy:— Universal suffrage, a complete political amnesty for all the victims of the ancient régime, a national militia instead of the present police, with officers elected by universal suffrage, and religious freedom. A righteous programme under which will dawn a new

day for the great Russian People. No event so soul stirring and so momentous for humanity at large has occurred since the downfall of the Bastille in 1789.

SOWING THE SEED.

It is one of the pleasures of a nurse's life that her work is above politics. Revolutions may occur, dynasties may change, but she pursues the even tenor of her way undisturbed. Like the cities of refuge of old where every man might take sanctuary, the hospital extends its invitation to all who need its care. The only condition of admission is the urgency of the case. The authorities are not concerned with the patient's politics, or worthiness, whether his disease or hurt is the result of his own wrong doing or his misfortune; they regard him simply as a patient to be cured if this can be compassed by science and good nursing, to be relieved if complete cure is impossible, or to be tenderly cared for until "Death the Consoler, laying his hand upon many a heart has healed it for ever and ever."

Just now, in Russia, British nurses are privileged to help those who have suffered in the throes of the revolution, which, taken as a whole, has been effected with singularly little bloodshed. Reports which have come to hand state that the Anglo-Russian Hospital at Petrograd, and other hospitals where English Sisters are on duty, are doing splendid work, and we do not doubt that the help they are able to give to our Allies in this crisis will help to cement the warm friendship which already exists between the two nations. When the story of the War is written we may hope the sympathetic work of British Nurses will be found to have had a far reaching and beneficent influence in many directions, which will continue to benefit humanity in an ever increasing degree.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)