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EDITORIAL.

A NURSING COLLEGE—UNCOMPLICATED BY STATE REGISTRATION.

The pioneers of the State Registration movement have always kept in the forefront of the programme of nursing reform, the higher education of nurses, and for nearly a quarter of a century the proposal for the organization of nursing schools on a definite collegiate basis, which we embodied in a paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Union of Women Workers, at Croydon, in 1897, has been the hope of the progressives in this country, while, in the United States of America, the foundation of a Chair of Nursing at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, owing to the initiative, and public spirited work of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, and the courses there inaugurated under the direction of Professor M. Adelaide Nutting, R.N., are an object lesson to nursing educationalists throughout the world.

At the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Cologne, in 1912, we had the honour to propose that the nurses of the world should co-operate to found an educational memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale, and this was seconded by Miss Nutting, who, in so doing, said she had no hesitation in answering for American Nurses. No one for a day could withhold their support to a proposition for the endowment of an educational memorial in her honour—a real memorial to Florence Nightingale could take no other form. The fund with this object was then founded. The story of how it was subsequently rendered abortive, for the time being, has never yet been fully told. We may be sure, however, that when the proposal for the foundation of a College of Nursing was later made in this country Miss Nutting, with keen judgment

impartially examined proposals, which she would willingly have believed would benefit and promote the higher education of nurses.

It is of great interest therefore to learn her opinion, expressed in a letter recently received in this country.

Miss Nutting writes:—"I try to keep up with you through THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and have followed with deepest interest and sympathy your valiant efforts in behalf of nurses, to safeguard their freedom, to govern themselves, to work out their own salvation. As you may remember I found it hard in the beginning to believe that the plan for the College which was under consideration would have in it any undesirable elements. The opportunity to build up a great institution for the higher education of nurses seemed to me then, as it does now, well worthy of the best effort and energy that could be brought to it. How I wish it could have been carried forward uncomplicated by the question of registration—a matter which establishes control not only over the process of training, but over the professional status, work, and therefore the whole life of nurses. In just such degree as the responsibility for the development and direction of nursing is taken out of nurses' hands, will this important work fail of its best achievements and its highest possibilities, and be subject to the exploitations alike of institutions and individuals. The history of the past half-century in two continents leaves little room for doubt on this point."

We commend to the promoters of the College of Nursing, Ltd., this opinion of a practical expert, of a woman who, as Professor of Nursing at Teachers' College, has well and truly laid the foundations of a system of higher education for nurses, uncomplicated by the question of registration, which has already been fruitful in results throughout the United States of America.

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