

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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

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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS' EDITOR.

THE LONG, LONG TRAIL.

There are milestones in the life of every profession, and soulful movement, where we like to call a halt, in order to take a survey of the past with the view of bracing ourselves to further efforts, and so go forward with increased courage and determination. We, therefore, invite our faithful supporters to look back with us, in imagination, to the year 1893, for it marks the first milestone in the history of our own professional Journal. THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the only one in the world which is published weekly, which is also owned, controlled and edited by trained Nurses, and has the right, therefore, in this country, to claim to express professional opinion. Those of us who have created and sustained it may be proud of its status.

There can be no organisation without articulation. Realizing this truth, we assumed the Editorship of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING (then *The Nursing Record*) in 1893, in order that trained Nurses might have a voice in the Press, without which no profession can be free and independent, or make any progress; in fact, it is essential to its very life. In the year 1887—as is well known to our readers—the minds and hearts of a small group of women were stirred to bring about much needed reforms. We aspired, we laboured, we fought, we founded the British Nurses Association—now a Royal Association Incorporated by Royal Charter, the objects of which are well known.

The victory was gained only at the cost of tremendous and bitter opposition. This experience brought home to us forcibly the essential need of an organ owned and controlled by ourselves, if we were to succeed in the campaign of progress upon which we

had entered. In this connection, we may perhaps, be pardoned for quoting the words of an eminent American Nurse and Author, who has made a study of nursing conditions in this country and others. Speaking of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, she says:—“It rapidly came to be the foremost nursing journal in the world, and is the most complete record in existence of nursing affairs and progress in all countries. Fearless, and of consistent unwavering policy, it has been the advance guard of nursing interests all along the line.”

In our survey of twenty-five years, we may reasonably claim that our journal has been a liberal educator; it has imbued its supporters with professional enthusiasm and community of interests, which has carried the profession forward to a point of progress which it could not have reached without it. While deploring the unfair boycott of our Registration programme by the Public Press (with very few exceptions), it has taught Nurses the full value of an organ of their own.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has ever been a consistent opponent to every form of injustice. It has fought many battles successfully, alike for the individual and for the profession. Looking down a long vista of achievement, we see with gratification and pardonable pride something of what we owe to our journal. 1. The establishment of our many organised, self-governing Nurses' Societies. 2. The founding of our National Council of Trained Nurses. 3. The founding of our International Council—that great Confraternity of Nurses of many countries. 4. The breaking down of stubborn prejudice, and the conversion of Parliament and the Public to the principle of State Registration and all it stands for—higher and sounder education, the protection of the public and the profession from unfair

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