

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

For several years the conviction has been growing in the minds of Members of the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association that a monthly organ, which circulates only to its own Members, is no longer adequate to the requirements of the Corporation. The events of the past twelve months have brought this point of view more prominently than ever before those to whom the management of the Corporation has been entrusted by its Members, particularly as the action of the Association and its Council has been repeatedly misrepresented in sections of the nursing press. The opinion of some Members of the General Council has been that the object of such misrepresentation was not merely to obscure the powers which the nurses possess in their Charter and the use which they could make of it to improve their economic position, but also to spread dissension in the Association, and to undermine the confidence of the Members in those whom they have elected to the governing body of the Association. If such has been the intention it has failed utterly, for at no time have the Members been more strongly united; nevertheless the Council feel that the time has now arrived for adopting an organ, wherein to publish fortnightly a report of what is taking place in connection with the Association and its work. Too often it happens that matter, inserted in a monthly journal, has already appeared in the weekly press, and not as official information from the Association. These considerations led the Council to the decision that some change was now called for to enable the Members to keep in close touch with their Corporation. At a quarterly meeting, at which Her Royal Highness the President of the Corporation presided, it was decided that steps should be taken in order to arrange that official information should be inserted in a weekly organ. It was the unanimous opinion of the Meeting that THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING was the Journal best suited in which to insert the official Supplement of the Chartered Corporation of fully qualified nurses. Instructions were given to the Executive Committee to proceed with whatever negotiations and arrangements they might deem advisable, in order to give effect to the proposals of the General Council. At the next Meeting of that Committee the Honorary Officers were asked to approach Mrs. Bedford

Fenwick, Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and to request that some arrangement should be made whereby that Journal should become the organ of communication with Members of the Association. The proposals of the Executive Committee were met in the most generous spirit by Mrs. Fenwick, and ultimately the Committee laid before the General Council a formal recommendation that a Supplement be inserted fortnightly in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING as the Official Organ of the Corporation. This recommendation was unanimously adopted at a Special Meeting of the General Council.

The decision of the Council in this matter is a very important one, apart from those aspects in which it nearly concerns the Association itself, for such a decision embodies the vital principle that control of the professional press should be in the hands of the profession. THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, is the only weekly nursing paper in England edited by nurses. It is, therefore, the Journal best calculated to promote the interests of the nurses, to voice their opinions, and to keep them informed on questions relating to their professional affairs; moreover, directly and indirectly, it is undoubtedly the publication which has educated the public and the nurses of all countries on the necessity for the organization of nursing education and the need for Registration by the State of those who have qualified themselves to be entrusted with the care of the sick.

Some regret was expressed at the Council Meeting that the *Nurses' Journal* should be discontinued, but just as "new times demand new manners and new men," so also a time has come when the Journal, which has served its purpose so usefully in the past twelve months of controversy, by conveying to the Members full verbatim reports of the proceedings at Meetings of the Corporation and its Council, must now be laid aside in favour of another which is in a position to be of greater value to the Members and to the profession at large. We hope that the Members will look upon their new organ as an important and tangible part of their Association. As Members of the only Corporation of Nurses recognised by the State they have great powers, and consequently great responsibilities. In order to discharge those faithfully they must see to it that they use the means provided for them in order to keep themselves informed on all questions relating to the policy of their Corporation, for the present time is one of grave crisis for themselves and all members of their

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