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## EDITORIAL.

### SECOND READING OF OUR NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

The Editor feels sure that her innumerable correspondents will overlook any delay in receiving a reply from her. Only those letters and telegrams seeking information, "How can I help our Bill?" have received considered attention. Everyone connected with the editorial department of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has lived in a whirl, since the splendid stroke of good fortune in the House of Commons on the 11th inst., when Captain Barnett drew that lucky number and gave the State Registrationists the chance they have been waiting for, for fourteen years. Only those of us who have for thirty years been working and paying unceasingly for the Organization of Trained Nursing by the State—working doggedly against the almost overwhelming influence of ignorance, apathy, privilege and prejudice, can realise the joy of "getting a chance," and after all the strain and stress, still possessing the spirit to go in and win. For after the publicity given to our cause during the past week, whatever happens, we shall, in the near future, win the legal status which is our due.

Whenever "we get a chance" we always win. In 1905, it was the unanimous Report in favour of State Registration of Nurses of the Special Committee of the House of Commons. In 1908 it was the defeat of the Nurses' Directory Bill, and the passing of our Registration Bill by the House of Lords, without a division at any stage. In 1914, we had a majority of 228 for our Bill in a contested first reading in the House of Commons, and the reason our Bill did not then become law, was because we did not "get a chance." The Asquith adminis-

tration prevented that, and it would be interesting to know how many trained nurse voters remembered to give tit for tat at the recent Election!

By the time this issue of our JOURNAL reaches the country, the fateful day—March 28th—will have arrived, a debate on the second reading of the Nurses' Bill will have taken place, and the members of the House of Commons will have decided whether to divide or not, when the Bill may or may not be accorded a second reading, or whether to agree to a second reading without a division. Anyway, it will be a momentous occasion in the history of the Nursing Profession, fraught with far-reaching results.

On the one hand, the passing of a Registration Bill will do much to allay nursing unrest, and organization throughout the nursing world will follow; on the other hand, the long-pent-up, and deep sense of injury, may find vent in a protest foreign to our ethical standards—the writing has for a long time been visible on the wall!

For ourselves, we counsel as ever—untiring vigilance, and untiring devotion to the great reform movement we have guided thus far. Let nothing deter or dishearten us; just tramp steadily on, up hill, down dale, whether on this occasion we win—or lose. There is always a guiding star ahead, scintillating with the light of evolution. That star leads us just so far as we are worthy to go—and no farther.

No man is happier than he who loves and fulfils that particular work for the world which falls to his share. How often does all exertion seem in vain! Our duty nevertheless is to go on, never debating within ourselves, nor wavering in doubt, whether our work may succeed, but labour as if of necessity it must succeed. This is in itself success.

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