

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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

No. 1,621.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1919.

Vol. LXII

EDITORIAL.

"ALL THE AIR IS THRILLING WITH THE SPRING."

In that sweet season when the Year is green,
And hearts grow merry as spring-groves full of birds,
While life for pleasure ripples as it runs ;
And young Earth putteth forth the lovely things
She hath been dreaming through long winter nights ;
Taking the May-tide in a golden swim,
Her blithe heart singing for the flooding cheer ;
And field and forest clothed in tender leaf,
Shower after shower, out-smile a livelier green ;
With dainty colour the kindling country dawns ;
Death lieth low ; his hidden footprints bloom ;
Upon his grave Life dances all in flowers :
And lying shell-like on our shore o' the world,
Thinking to music played by hidden hands,
We are caught up to listening ear of Heaven,
That leaneth down maternal meek to hear
Our inner murmurs of the eternal sea.

—Gerald Massey.

"All the air is thrilling with the Spring,"
and in the hearts of those who for so long
have striven in the shadow for righteousness
and justice, for the public and the nursing
profession, there is glad response, for they see
the end of the long struggle, and a vista opens
before them of all that the professionally
enfranchised nurse in the United Kingdom
may do and be.

They see her uplifted to a plane where, with
definite status and enlarged vision, she will,
in close association with the Ministry of
Health, work for the good of the community
as a self-supporting, self-respecting, honour-
able, and honoured professional woman, the
value of whose skilled work moreover is esti-
mated at a rate which will enable her to live
under conditions free from sordid financial
anxiety, and thus to bring not only skill and
devotion, but a mind undistracted by the
burden of poverty to bear on the many
problems which confront her in the discharge
of her duties.

The State registered nurse will, moreover,
regard herself, as never before, as the cus-
todian of the honour of her profession, for to
be known as a registered nurse will carry with
it obligations to uphold the standard and the
dignity of a very honourable calling.

Long desired, and long denied her, the State
recognition of her professional qualification
will be very precious to the registered nurse,
who has suffered bitter injury in the past, not
only because the work which should have been
hers has been annexed by the unskilled, the
avaricious, the unscrupulous, but because she
has seen the public victimised, and unneces-
sary suffering and loss of life result, since
often it had no means of discriminating
between the skilled and the unskilled, and so
took the charlatan at her own valuation.

It is therefore with a thrill of exultation,
atune with the mood of spring, that trained
nurses realize they are within measurable
distance of the fulfilment of the hopes of many
years, and that they will be able to go forward,
and raise the profession which they love and
honour, to a higher level of efficiency than
ever before.

For great responsibilities will rest upon the
nurses of the future when they gain the
professional status. The foundations of their
profession will have been well and truly laid,
it will be theirs to build a fair edifice on this
sure foundation.

GOLDEN GLORY.

Daffodils, daffodils, primroses, and king cups,
Aconite, celandine, crocus all aglow,
Cowslips, azaleas, buttercups, dandelions,
Up above the sun is gold, earth is gold below.
Daffodils, daffodils, Spring that sings of Summer,
The blessedness of April is the blessedness of
birth.
Shall we one day waken to unpictured golden glory?
God will lift us all to Life as Springtime lifts the
earth.

N. E. McIver.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)