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EDITORIAL.

THE BLESSING OF PEACE.

Deep in the heart of every man and woman is the desire for peace, though the way to enduring peace is often by the stern path of war, and peace at any price a dishonourable sham.

It was with a feeling of deep thankfulness the Empire learnt that Peace had been signed, and that it could now set itself to heal the wounds of war and to build up national credit and prosperity. Was there anyone who listened to the salute of guns which heralded the good news whose thoughts did not turn to those who had bought our freedom at so great a price?

"I with uncovered head
Salute the sacred dead
Who went, and return not."

As is the wont of Londoners, when deeply stirred, thousands instinctively gravitated to Buckingham Palace to greet King and Queen, who, through the years of war have shared the anxieties and sorrows of the Nation, and have gained a place in its affections which found expression when their Majesties appeared on the balcony with their sons and daughter, to greet the crowds who called for them.

For the Prime Minister on his return from Paris, weary with the strain of the protracted negotiations to secure a just peace, was reserved a welcome which must have been some reward for his labours. The King and Queen delighted to honour him, the crowds in the street acclaimed him as he passed, and, more intimate still, the wonderful greeting by his colleagues in the House of Commons deeply moved him.

But, as we think of peace, our thoughts turn to our Allies, who have been tortured by the presence of the enemy on their own soil, and all that invasion by a ruthless foe means of horror and pain; and we thank God that for them, as for ourselves, the time of war is over, and they can enjoy the blessing of peace which their valour has earned, and which, in

the case of France, is safeguarded by the guarantee of three great Powers.

THE VICTORY OF THE NURSES.

"I will undertake, at the earliest possible time, on behalf of the Government, to introduce a measure, providing for the Registration of Nurses . . . You may take that as a bona-fide pledge."—*Dr. Addison, Minister of Health, in the House of Commons, June 27, 1919.* †

In these words, Dr. Addison, Minister of Health, practically gave the assent of Parliament to the demands of the little band of matrons who, on December 7th, 1887, met at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, and formulated a policy for the organisation of trained nursing by the State, placing in the forefront registration of nurses, for the standardisation and improvement of nursing education, for the protection of the sick, and for the improvement of the economic status of trained nurses.

Thus the long struggle between trained nurses and hospital governors and their reactionary officials, which has extended over thirty years, is to be adjusted by the Government.

To those nurses who are naturally disappointed that the Bill drafted by their representatives in the Central Committee, and to which they have given such whole-hearted support, was practically wrecked by the anti-registration instincts of those federated in the College of Nursing, Ltd., we would point out, that the pledge of the Minister for Health, to see a Bill for the State Registration of Nurses placed on the Statute Book, is in reality a crowning victory for all their work and self-sacrifice.

The citizen nurse will therefore bring her most conscientious consideration to bear upon the Government Bill, and she will extend to Dr. Addison the result of her expert knowledge of this great national question, so that the aim she has always had at heart, that the sick shall enjoy the most highly skilled and devoted nursing care, may be attained through a wise and liberal measure.

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