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## EDITORIAL.

### THE VALLEY OF DECISION.

It is holiday time, a time for recreation. A holiday is a physical necessity for all workers. The body is tired, and, as a natural consequence, so also is the mind. No one can give his or her best output of work to any cause when over-fatigued, so the work suffers as well as the worker, if a need for a rest is disregarded from whatever cause. And of all sections of workers, none need or deserve holidays more than trained Nurses of all branches of the Art, amongst which let us not forget that of the penmen among Nurses, a group by no means insignificant (in this country and in others) from the point of view both of numbers, and of literary gifts.

The need for refreshment of mind and body is perhaps greater this year than ever before. We have passed one crisis only to face another which lies immediately ahead of us.

Our best energies, our soundest judgment, the greatest watchfulness, and a quickened and sincere sense of justice and loyalty, will be needed in order to win a glorious victory for Principle, as our men on the battlefields of Europe have done. We have reached the Valley of Decision; let there be no wavering, no juggling with consciences. To "follow right were wisdom in the scorn of consequence." The battle for a just Nurses' Registration Act will be renewed in the House of Commons when the Minister for Health brings in the promised Nurses' Registration Bill on behalf of the Government, and it is discussed on the floor of the House. Meanwhile we must get together our moral reinforcements. The fundamental principles which the Central Committee has laid down, and consistently adhered to, are

the very vitals of any measure for this object. British Nurses, who have fought and won so many battles in the State Registration Field can also be invincible in the decisive battle, if they continue to fight with courage and the will to win.

The most perfect example of the great achievements that can result from co-ordinated effort which the world perhaps has ever seen, is that which made Marshal Foch Generalissimo of the Allied Armies, and so freed the world from the horrors of threatened despotism. We should do well to take to heart the recent words of that great man uttered at the Guildhall:—"The unquestionable judgment of history is, that nations are clearly invincible, when, having sufficiently advanced on the road of civilisation, they consecrate without reserve their moral and material resources and all their energies in the struggle for liberty." A paraphrase of these words exactly suits our own case. This is the invincible spirit. The spirit that is never discouraged under any circumstances, that never harbours the cowardly thought of failure. The spirit of Decision. We have learnt many lessons from the world war. The outstanding one is, that no sacrifice is too great to defend and restore honour and freedom.

We have two arch-enemies to fight—the twin evil genii, Feudalism and Autocracy, which have long dominated the Nursing Profession. A just—and therefore acceptable—Act of State Registration for Nurses implies their dethronement, as a primary and essential step to the reconstruction of the Profession, its rebirth.

We therefore, here and now, call upon all true-hearted Nurses to buckle on the Shield of Faith, and the Sword of the Spirit, and thus prepare themselves to fight with vigour and decision for liberty and justice.

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