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**EDITORIAL.**

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.**

Christmas, with all its happy and holy memories, approaches once again, and this issue of the JOURNAL carries its greetings to its numerous friends near and far. For many, perhaps most, of us it brings memories of both sadness and pride, sadness that amongst the young and brave whose presence was so dear, and made past Christmases so gay, many will never more gladden us with their fun and laughter. Pride that when the call came they responded nobly, that they offered every gift they possessed on the altar of patriotism, and that their names are enshrined for evermore in the Roll of the noble army of martyrs. To those of us who have these bitter-sweet memories Christmas brings its own message of comfort, when in the quaint salutation of the old carol we greet with "good day our Lord, Sir Christmas"—

Go day syre criste masse our Kyng,  
For everyman both olde and younge  
Ys glad and blythe of youre compynge  
Good day.

Alle maner of merthes we wole make  
And solas to our hertys take  
My semely lorde for youre sake  
Good day.

Amidst our Christmas rejoicings also do not let us forget the aftermath of the great war. We have with us, as a charge from those who have made the supreme sacrifice, the care of the maimed, the halt and the blind, whom a war of unprecedented horror has injured for life—a sad legacy, did not their own cheery optimism put sadness to shame. We shall best enjoy our own Christmas if we endeavour to discharge faithfully and whole-heartedly this debt of honour.

**THE CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE NURSING PROFESSION.**

To nurses as a profession, this Christmas will bring the greatest gift it is in the power of man to bestow. That is the gift of the Minister of Health, with the support of the Government, and of Parliament, of their Charter of Liberty through a Nurses' Registration Act, which secures to them power of self-government—a high privilege carrying with it corresponding responsibility. Whether or not the Nurses' Registration Bills, which have been read a third time in the House of Commons and are now before the House of Lords, become law this session, we may confidently hope that the Royal Assent will be given to the Bills in the immediate future.

In the Debate on the Second Reading of the Nurses' Registration (Ireland) Bill, the Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Denis Henry) told the House of Commons "The Bill before the House is practically a copy of the Bill that applies to England and which has already received a third reading. A very slight verbal alteration is made to suit the administration of it to Ireland. Another condition contained in it is a provision absolutely identical to that in the English Bill, which enables Irish and Scottish nurses to be registered in England. We propose that the English and Scottish nurses shall be registered in Ireland. The Scottish Bill is on the Paper, and I am informed that it will be taken at the earliest possible moment, and the idea is to press this Bill, and the Scottish Bill on, as rapidly as possible." This has been done.

Up to the present nurses have been permitted little voice in the management of their own affairs; now that they are to be entrusted with responsibility we hope that they will realise the duty of exercising it for the benefit of the public, and for the greater honour and dignity of the nursing profession.

With all our heart, and in deep thankfulness; we wish our readers "A Merry Christmas."

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