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EDITORIAL.

THE NURSES' THANKSGIVING.

"It is a comely fashion to be glad
Joy is the grace we say to God."

The Service of Thanksgiving for the passing of the Nurses Registration Acts, which is to be held at the church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C., on Friday, January 23rd, will afford an opportunity of expressing the joy in the hearts of nurses, and their public thanksgiving, that at last laws have been placed on the Statute Book of these Realms which will enable them so to organise their profession that it will be a much more efficient instrument than ever before, for the service of the sick and suffering, and, through preventive nursing, for raising the whole standard of the national health.

For that high aspiration has been the driving force behind the work for the State Registration of Trained Nurses these many years—not the mere enrolling on a Register of a list of names. The power behind the Register is that vested by Parliament in the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession, whereby it can define the standards, and maintain the honour of the profession. This, fundamentally, is what State Registration implies, and there is cause for rejoicing that the Minister of Health—in constituting a Council composed practically of two-thirds nurses—has placed the efficiency and honour of the nursing profession in its own keeping. It remains for nurses to appreciate, and discharge aright, this high responsibility.

The service at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, on Friday, January 23rd, will be held at 7.15 p.m., and will last rather more than an hour. We are glad to announce that the Address will be

given by the Rev. A. H. R. Robinson, M.A., Mus.B., Precentor at St. Martin's, who has taken a most kind interest in the arrangements. The hymns selected are "O God, our help in ages past," "Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven," and "At even, ere the sun was set," and the service will include the Lord's Prayer, the Magnificat and the Te Deum, and Special and General Thanksgivings. The collection, after defraying the expenses of the service, will be given to the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund.

The Order of Service will be found in detail on page ii of the cover in this issue, and our readers are advised to keep this for reference.

St. Martin's-in-the-Fields is in a most central position in Trafalgar Square, where all omnibus routes converge, close to Charing Cross Station. The service will be one in which every nurse can join, and we hope those off duty will do their utmost to be present on this very memorable occasion.

United thanksgiving is not a very common practice; and yet "it is a comely fashion to be glad," and for the members of a profession to rejoice together over matters which affect them, not only personally, but collectively. As a profession we have a history of our own, a duty of our own, an allegiance of our own, and only we ourselves know how intimately and vitally we are affected by the recent legislation, and what profound cause we have for thanksgiving. Let us meet together and acknowledge it, and with hearts atune to the greatness and joyfulness of the occasion say our "grace to God."

Whoever may
Discern true ends here shall grow pure enough
To love them, brave enough to strive for them,
And strong enough to reach them, though the road
be rough.

E. B. Browning.

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