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**EDITORIAL.**

**A NEW FACE AT THE DOOR.**

Time's up! A moment two ancients meet,  
One has a scythe, and with urgent feet  
One is the Old Year going  
Into the void, with a goodly pack  
Of life's tit-bits on his weary back,  
And half his debts left owing.

New Year! the Century comes of age!  
And *you* will colour the vacant page,  
Have you the art in plenty?  
What of the visions and schemes designed  
To meet the problems of poor mankind,  
Young Nineteen One-and-Twenty?

C. B. M.

**THE NEW YEAR.**

It is always inspiring to enter on a New Year, and it is with keen anticipation that nurses look forward to 1921, for during this year they anticipate that the State Registers of Nurses, the establishment of which they have desired, and for which they have worked so long and ardently, will be compiled, and that they will enter on a new phase in uniting under Rules which it is hoped will, in due course, organise the profession of nursing.

Every nurse who appreciates the value of registration for herself should make it a matter of honour to draw the attention of other nurses of good standing, who may not be so well informed, to the advantages which are to be gained from State Registration, for, it must be remembered, that owing to the interested opposition to this reform, many have been kept in the dark as to its true value.

What, then, are the advantages resulting from State Registration?

(1) The protection of the public whom nurses exist to serve. Every nurse could tell of cases in which much unnecessary suffering, and perhaps loss of life has been caused, because of

the dangerous incompetence of persons who dared to assume the responsible duties of trained nurses without adequate preparation.

(2) The establishment and maintenance of an adequate standard of nursing education, and the protection of the honour of the nursing profession, which henceforth will only be responsible for its accredited and registered members, instead of having its reputation injured by numerous persons, who, to the great detriment of the prestige of trained nurses, do not hesitate to claim a title to which they have no right, and to utilise its uniform. It is a relief to know that the State Registers of Nurses will be available like the Medical Register, and the Roll of the Central Midwives' Board in all Courts of Justice, as well as for the general public, and if a name is not to be found therein, members of the nursing profession can disclaim all responsibility for the doings of its owner.

But much more than that is entailed in State Registration. Let us hope the result will be solidarity of aim amongst State Registered nurses, and that they will aim high, not only concerning the maintenance of educational and moral standards, but that they will strive to recapture the spirit of idealism which we seem to be in some danger of losing in these utilitarian days, without which we can never bring to the service of the race those intangible gifts of heart and hand which no money can purchase, which it is the joy of the true nurse to render, and lacking which, we are well aware, our service is poor indeed.

We need to bring to our patients everything that science can teach us. But it is equally important that we should be inspired by the spirit of devotion to our craft which has animated countless of our predecessors.

So may we assist in the regeneration of the world.

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