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**EDITORIAL.**

**THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND  
UNDERSTANDING.**

There has never been a time in the history of nursing in this country when it needed more all the devotion, the self-sacrifice, the affection which those enrolled under its banner can lavish in its service. We speak now not of the care of the sick, but of the organisation through which trained nurses, under the fostering care of the General Nursing Councils, will be welded into a professional body.

If that body is to be strong, resourceful, self-reliant, then its foundations must be well and truly laid, for a sound superstructure can never be built on an insecure foundation.

Let us remember that nursing as a profession in the United Kingdom only came into being a brief fifteen months ago, and that just as, in the life of a child, the early years are the all-important years, influencing its whole subsequent life, so, with our profession, the first years of its corporate life are supremely important, and on the Rules framed for its government its future welfare largely depends.

Thus not only do those to whom the framing of those Rules are committed need the "spirit of wisdom and understanding," so that they may be drafted in a liberal spirit of statesmanship, but they need the intelligent interest and co-operation of every nurse to be registered under their authority. Incidentally, we hope that every nurse will study the reports of the proceedings of the General Nursing Councils which appear in this Journal, and thus acquaint herself with the progress made and the conclusions arrived at by the General Nursing Councils.

Those who for the last thirty-three years have worked bravely, in spite of great discouragement,

for the organisation of nursing through the adoption of a minimum standard of nursing education, the one portal system of examination, and the establishment of a State Register, must not now consider that their work is finished—it has only entered on a new phase.

To this generation of nurses is committed the high responsibility of building up and consolidating the calling of their choice in a great profession, and no pains can be too great to secure this end.

The standard of nursing education to be attained in the future will be decided by the General Nursing Councils, but there are many other questions of great importance which should be discussed by nurses in their own associations, and all the decisions at which they arrive should be made in the light of what is best in the interest of the health of the public, both sick and well.

The standard of remuneration, the number of hours on duty, and the question of superannuation, are all important matters calling for discussion by nurses. We put remuneration first because no profession can be stable unless it is built up on a sound economic basis.

But, while claiming just remuneration for our highly skilled and responsible work, and such as will enable nurses to maintain themselves adequately, and save for their old age, we must avoid extravagant claims, remembering the financial crisis through which the country is now passing; remembering also the duty of giving a fair day's work for a fair day's wage. Let us put forward our claims in a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

But, whatever schemes we adopt for the benefit of our profession, let us hold fast to the spirit of devotion to the sick which has inspired its highest ideals, lest, while gaining material things, we let slide from our grasp our most precious heritage.

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