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EDITORIAL.

EMPIRE DAY.

Some of the greatest movements have originated in quite small beginnings, and Lord Meath, who has worked with such whole-hearted patriotism for the recognition of "Empire Day" throughout the British Dominions, tells how he happened to read in a newspaper that the Prime Minister of Ontario had addressed a school at Hamilton, where the British Flag was hoisted and the children sang the National Anthem. The lady who suggested this gathering little thought what an influence it would have on the Empire of the future. The little seed fell on fruitful soil, for, as Lord Meath told a representative of the *Times*: "Why," I asked myself, "should this delightful idea be confined to Hamilton, Ontario? I wrote round to Prime Ministers and Governors for their views; and in this way the scheme of Empire Day gradually developed." For nearly twenty years Lord Meath has worked to further this movement, and, as a matter of deliberate policy, preferred to do so entirely himself. "Not," he says, "until I became a comparatively poor man, and had neither the money nor the strength to continue unaided, did I look around for a committee. We have now an office in Denison House in the Vauxhall Bridge Road, and are thankful for subscriptions."

The movement has succeeded wonderfully. Although Empire Day is not yet observed as a statutory holiday in Great Britain, it is in several of the self-governing Colonies; in Indian Temples Hindus, Mahommedans and Sikhs hold special services; and in the schools children are learning through Empire Day the high privilege of being subjects of the mightiest Empire the world has ever known; they are learning to recognise that the interests of the

State should take precedence of those of the individual, and that the watchwords of the Empire Day movement—responsibility, duty, sympathy and self-sacrifice—imply the obligations which are the heritage of those who are subjects of the British Empire.

For nurses, Empire Day has a special meaning, their duties frequently carry them overseas, and they realise the strength and support they receive from the British Flag, and the honour accorded to it on land and sea. Again, throughout the Empire they are in close touch through their professional organisations, and have been drawn still closer through working side by side, on shore and afloat, during the great war. Further, under the Nurses' Registration Acts, nurses in any part of His Majesty's Dominions outside the United Kingdom where Nurses' Registration Laws are in force, and where the standard of training and examination are not lower than those required under our own Acts, may apply to be registered under these Acts. The ways in which nurses are bound together under the banner of Empire to uphold its traditions, are therefore many already.

Why should not this unity take tangible form, and Empire Day be observed amongst nurses pledging themselves to uphold the traditions of the Empire and to serve it loyally? Picturesque ceremonial is an immense aid in impressing ideals on receptive minds, and, in a materialistic age, it is well that we should pledge ourselves anew to the altruistic ideals which inspired, we believe, the majority of nurses when they entered upon a nursing career. Why should we not each year have an Empire Day celebration for nurses as beautiful and impressive as it can be made throughout the Homeland and in the Overseas Dominions? We do not doubt that it would be a popular function, and of great educational value.

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