

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
THE NURSING RECORD

EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,742.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1921.

Vol. LXVII

## EDITORIAL.

### THE CONCERN OF ALL.

In our last issue we referred to the duty and privilege of Nurses of exercising the powers they, in common with other women, possess, by conscientiously recording their Municipal and Parliamentary votes. This week we desire to warn nurses that there are at the present day evil influences at work, working from *within*, to betray and ruin our Country. For instance, we know on very good authority that there are on some of our Metropolitan Borough Councils men who openly advocate Bolshevism; and the latest menace is the attempt that is now being made to introduce into the Public Libraries—supported by the rates—Communist literature. Our attention has been drawn to a publication issuing from Petrograd, translated into English; its character is revolutionary and anarchist in the highest degree. The overthrow of all law and order and other dangerous tenets are advocated. This pernicious literature, entitled *The Communist International*, is proposed to place—or attempt to place—in our public libraries, which are frequented by children as well as adults.

At this point, it is fitting that we should ask ourselves, how it is that men, so gravely disloyal, are to be found on our Metropolitan Borough Councils. The answer is quite simple, and quite obvious: *The electors have put them there!* The electors, then, are either (some of them) very disloyal themselves, or utterly indifferent as to the character of those who represent them. The seriousness of the situation is so great that it can scarcely be exaggerated, and we desire specially to draw the thoughtful attention of our readers to it. This Journal has always stood for loyalty and patriotism; in other words, we are patriots

*first* and nurses afterwards. We are confronted with a new danger, not less serious, but more so, than the Great War. The desire is that the children shall be taught the pernicious doctrine of Communism. Could anything be worse than the corruption of the young? *This is the concern of us all*, one which we cannot, and dare not, repudiate. Much might be said of the results of the Communist Government in Russia, for we are in possession of reliable information; but the exigencies of time and space will not permit of it. We desire, however, to urge upon the educated Nurse that she prove her patriotism by taking her share in checking this new and serious danger, remembering that if not checked it would mean—without a shadow of doubt—the downfall of our Country. “Where there is no Vision the People perish.” The children in Russia (and some in England) are being taught to blaspheme; immorality is being encouraged in every way by the Soviet Government; sixty per cent. of the children are suffering from venereal disease, they are being taught that God, their parents and their teachers are their enemies! These unbelievable things are *real*. Russia is without a Vision, and is perishing, physically and morally. We believe that our compatriots who are doing their country so great a wrong are ignorant and unenlightened, and do not realise the seriousness of their action; this does not, however, lessen the danger.

What is the vision that Nurses see in all this? Save the children; combat disease; keep out of the Councils of the Nation those who propose to ruin it. Remember that “Courage consists not in blindly overlooking danger, but in meeting it with the eyes open.” Do what you can; remember the Divine commendation: “She hath done what she could.”

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)