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EDITORIAL.

NEW WORLDS TO CONQUER.

We used to say—and to *feel*—in the days of the Suffrage Campaign, that opposition strengthened our Cause by infusing into us an accelerated determination to overcome, and to *win*. That is the spirit of the true reformer; it is the essential thing that reformers are made of. Nurses who have taken a share—large or small—in bringing about the reform of State Registration, have learned the great lesson that unflagging hope teaches, namely, tenacity of purpose. It must never be forgotten that a great reform crowned by Act of Parliament, gives *power* to individuals to produce subsidiary reforms. To amplify the idea. Girded with the panoply of power to act, let us *act*. We have new worlds to conquer, citadels of evil to overthrow.

The public conscience has recently been stirred by the book by Dr. Montagu Lomax, "The Experiences of an Asylum Doctor"—now being reviewed in this journal—and the Minister of Health has announced, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, that he has under consideration the question of possible reforms in lunacy administration and treatment.

Another field for conquest is the prison. We have long advocated that the sick prisoners should be nursed by fully qualified trained women. Among much good work which has been achieved by the Howard League of Penal Reform (formerly the Penal Reform League), founded by Capt. Arthur St. John, we must include an effort, crowned with partial success, to bring the trained nurse into the Prison Infirmaries. Perchance, some of the

most noble-hearted among our general-trained nurses may find in asylum nursing and prison nursing opportunities of bringing some measure of happiness to these most unhappy and pitiable classes of people? We hope that the reforms which we trust the Minister of Health will inaugurate, will result, among other things, in the attachment to the Asylum of the Registered Nurse.

The new nursing scheme for prisons was inaugurated 2 years ago. The scheme provides for male and female nurses. The former have usually had experience in the R.A.M.C. or the Sick Berths of the Royal Navy; they also undergo special training in Prison Nursing at Parkhurst, where there is a large hospital. With regard to the female staff, there exists at the present time in Holloway Prison, "a special Training School" for instructing the wardresses in nursing. The training is for six months in the Prison, with an additional three months' training at the London Hospital. There are, besides, five fully trained nurses, a woman doctor, and a former hospital matron, who is in charge of the "school." This is the beginning of better things, but it is far from being ideal. A hospital with a given number of beds is the only school of nursing. Nurses who are interested in the subject had better keep a watchful eye on Holloway prison, because it appears not unlikely that the pupils of the "Training School" will, in course of time, displace the Hospital trained nurse. A reform has begun, but it has not been established on the basis of efficiency, and therefore will not endure, we fear.

We cling tenaciously to our vision of some years ago—the Elizabeth Fry League of Prison Nurses. Let this be our vision and not merely a mirage.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)