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EDITORIAL.

HAPPY HOSPITAL DAYS.

The strong affection of nurses for their Training Schools has always been a very marked and pleasant feature in the nursing world. They may have been—they very often have been in the past—overworked, underpaid, and even underfed, and yet, in spite of all, just as a man (or woman) retains a lifelong love for his College and University, where some of the happiest and most intense years of his life have been spent, where close friendships have been formed which have an abiding influence on his life, where the knowledge that he has acquired is a permanent asset in his after success in life, so the Nurse Training Schools receive the raw material in the shape of probationers, immature, unlearned, and, at the end of three or more years, turn them out skilled and certificated nurses, competent to perform some of the most responsible duties which women are ever called upon to undertake.

During the Great War all the world wondered at the steady courage, skill, resource, and staying power of the trained nurses. No one can gauge the suffering prevented, the lives saved, by the ministrations of nurses, or the moral support given to our wounded men, whose mental force was in danger of breaking down under the terrific strain which it had been called upon to endure.

As no amount of good-will would have availed to equip our armies to meet the enemy without stern training, so no amount of good-will could fit women untrained as nurses for the responsible care of the sick and wounded in those four years of war. And the qualities

which they then demonstrated had been inculcated, cultivated, practised, and tested during the years of their training.

It is because nurses realise how much they owe to the nursing schools which moulded and trained them for their work in life that they hold these schools in high esteem. They sever their connection to go out into the world with real sorrow, and they return to them with pleasure and affection. The immediate popularity of Nurses' Leagues, gathering together the certificated nurses of a school, owe such popularity largely to the fact that the members feel that they still have a connection with the school. They return to the institution for the League Meetings, not as strangers amongst their successors, who do not even know them by name, but as honoured and accredited members of the School, with the definite status given to them by its certificate.

We believe that the authorities of nurse training schools realise and value this evidence of appreciation on the part of their pupils past and present. Of recent years, indeed, it has had a very definite financial value, for in the lean years upon which the hospitals have fallen substantial sums have been raised and contributed to their funds by nurses trained in their schools.

Just now trained nurses are alarmed and indignant at the proposal which has been made in the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to omit the record of their certificates in the State Register of Nurses. Should it prove that this is seriously contemplated, we hope that the Nurse Training Schools will support the nurses, and insist that the certificates which they, as examining bodies, have awarded to their pupils, shall have the honourable recognition which is their due.

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