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EDITORIAL.

**"THE ENGLISH NURSE IS WORTH
WORKING FOR."**

In another column we record the opinion formed by a Greek lady on her observation of the work of the Unit of Nurses selected to nurse the Greek sick and wounded:—"The English nurse is worth working for." We are glad that the best traditions of our profession have been upheld, as we felt sure they would be, by the Unit, so that the reputation of English nurses continues to stand high in the Near East.

The sentence, written in connection with our work for the organisation of nurses, made us consider for a moment what nurses—what members of any profession, for that matter—are worth working and fighting for, which means making sacrifices for. We concluded that the qualities which inspire faith and self-sacrifice are courage, honour, truth, gentleness, tenderness, endurance. With the best of goodwill it is almost impossible to fight for better conditions for those who prove themselves cowardly, dishonourable, untruthful, cruel, mean, and treacherous. To fight well one must have as one's objective a cause in which one has faith and pride. Would it be possible to fight for cowards? Only on the ground that they were slaves, who had been rendered cowardly by the whip hand which their masters held over them, and that the majority preferred to cringe, to risking the descent of the lash, while here and there, rising superior to environment, were to be found a few brave spirits, indicating what all might become under different conditions. That by the way.

The British Nurse has over and over again proved her worth, her skill, her physical

courage. She proved it up to the hilt in the Great War; she has proved it, indeed, whenever she has had the opportunity of so doing. All the world over we can say, without being vain-glorious, the work of none commands greater respect and admiration.

Beyond her practical work which, in the past, has absorbed most of her energies, she is now confronted with her duties in connection with the consolidation of the Nursing Profession.

For the first time now she is to have the opportunity of helping to control her own professional destinies, for when the State Register is published, in or about July of this year, the nurses of England and Wales will, thenceforth, become a concrete profession, and they will then have to learn the art of taking corporate action, of making personal interests subsidiary to the common good.

These are points in which women are, so far, not so well informed, not so well organised, as men. With men, to play for one's side, not for oneself, is a lesson learnt in the playing fields of our public schools, in the Navy, the Army, and in business life. The lives of women have always been more restricted and individualistic.

Nurses will therefore be well advised to study what qualities the members of other professions have brought to them to make their organisation a success, and, having noted them, to take pains to develop them. Chief amongst them we would place moral courage and honourable dealing. We commend, as a New Year's Resolution, a determination to cultivate them. In the untrodden path in which their feet are now set English nurses will need true friends and helpers. Let them prove that as in practical so in corporate matters "the English nurse is worth working for."

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