

I think none of us realised how long it would be before the goal was won. We had not realised the strong economic and social influences or the forces of privilege which we should be up against, and the demand seemed so reasonable, so simple, so beneficial to the community that we thought it had only to be put forward to be accepted. But more than thirty years elapsed before Acts for the Registration of Nurses were placed on the Statute Book of these Realms entailing an expenditure of time, and work, and money on your part which you alone can estimate.

Any acknowledgment of the debt due to you would be more than inadequate without mention of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which (as the *Nursing Record*) you secured in 1893, so that nurses might have a free voice in the Press, and of which you have acted as Hon. Editor for all these years. Without the effective voice of that gallant Journal the fight for Registration would not have been brought to so successful an issue.

In all ages they have stoned the prophets, and you have had more than your share of stones in contending for our professional liberties. But your work for nurses is known and honoured all over the world, and there are thousands of nurses in this country to-day who realise, with me, that it is to you primarily they owe the great privilege of their Registration by the State, and who hold in deepest admiration your capacity, your courage, your loyalty to the working members of the profession, to which you are a shining example of those virtues.

In all gratitude I subscribe myself,

MARGARET BREAY,
Registered Nurse.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

We may hope that at an early date, the Minister of Health having returned from a short vacation, the General Nursing Council affairs will be set in order. The nurses of this country have a right to claim that the Registration Act which they finance shall not be held up by any person whatever. It took the pioneer nurses thirty years of self-sacrificing toil to educate Parliament on the question of the necessity, in their own and the public's interest, that their invaluable work should, like the analogous professions of medicine and midwifery, be organised and protected by the State. It took from £30,000 to £40,000, contributed by their friends and from their own scanty earnings, to pay for the publicity of the movement, and the mere suggestion, as put forth in more than one paper, that the Act shall be annulled and that their hard-earned legal status shall be swept away, proves the attitude of publicists and others towards

the nursing profession of this country—a serf class, to be treated as such. In this connection a very grave miscalculation has been made, and pending the decision of the Minister as to which course—as provided under the Act—will be taken, we are informed that the organised Nurses' Associations are taking counsel together as to the best method of protecting the rights, privileges, and responsibilities granted to them by Parliament.

THE GREEK NURSING UNIT.

Last week we related some experiences of members of the Greek Nursing Unit in hospitals in Athens. Sisters Catherine Evans, Oakley-Williams, Bagster, and Browne were stationed still nearer to the seat of war with two other English Sisters from Athens, first at Smyrna (where the lovely bay rivals the Bay of Naples) in a wing of the Greek Civilian Hospital, and then, when an advance was made, at Dörileon (Eski-Chehir) where a hospital of 150 beds established in a school acted more or less as a Clearing Station. The Director was a Greek medical man. The conditions were more primitive than at Smyrna, some of the patients being laid on stretchers, which the Sisters had to carefully avoid stepping over. The cases were mainly head injuries, jaw cases, bad fractures, and amputations for injury and gangrene. As in the French hospitals, the patients were taken into a special room for dressings, very few being done in the wards. Beds were utilized in houses near by, as well as in the hospital proper, which had two floors, with theatre and dressing room. Convoys were received from the Front every day, but only the worst cases were retained, the others after treatment or first aid being sent down to Smyrna.

The Sisters had a most interesting experience, and not only the Greeks but the Turks also were most friendly, and they were invited into the Turkish harems, and also shown the Mosques. They made many friends amongst all classes, and are quite sad to be home again.

THE FOREST BIRD.

The loveliest things of earth are not
Her lilies, waterfalls or trees;
Or clouds that float like still, white stones
Carved upon azure seas;

* * * *

But in transparency of thought
Out of the branched, dark-foliaged word
There flits a strange, soft-glimmering light,
Shy as a forest bird.
Most lovely and most shy it comes
From realms of sense unknown,
And sings of earthly doom,
Of an immortal happiness
In the soul's deepening gloom.

From *In Time Like Glass.*
By W. J. Turner.

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