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EDITORIAL.

STAND FOR THE RIGHT.

Stand for the right;
No good thing is failure,
And no evil thing success.

From the Chair at the Annual Meeting of the College of Nursing, Ltd., Sir Arthur Stanley made a statement which we heartily endorse—and which will be endorsed by all nurses who appreciate the importance of the dignity of their profession—that he hoped a time would come when a trained nurse would be in the position he was that day occupying—*i.e.*, giving them a report, as Chairman, of the doings of the College at an Annual Meeting.

The College now claims a membership of some 21,000 nurses; if amongst that number there is not one capable of acting as its Chairman it must be singularly unfortunate in its members. We cannot believe that they could not find a Chairman within their own ranks, and we hope that Sir Arthur Stanley may, before long, see his hopes materialise.

Nurses have now been granted by Parliament the legal status for which so many of their number worked devotedly for many years before the College of Nursing was founded, when the battle was practically won. Like other professions, if that of nursing is to progress it must do so along self-governing lines. The life of any individual, profession, or nation which is worth living is founded on self-reliance, self-help, and self-respect; they are the qualities which have gained for the British nation its position in the world, and by which it will stand or fall.

Just so far as they characterise the individual members of the Nursing Profession, and its organisations, will that profession be honoured; just so far as nurses barter these essentials for any apparent temporary good whatsoever, will their influence, their position,

in the body politic, decline in real value. Therefore, the best thing that those who desire to befriend nurses can do is to help them to help themselves.

That is why those nurses who appreciate the fundamental importance of self-government in their professional organisations, and their governing body, set their faces like a flint against all forms of patronage, against all attempts to deprive them of the priceless right of self-determination. That is why they claim that official positions in professional societies, and in the General Nursing Councils, should be filled by registered nurses, and they further believe that such positions cannot adequately be filled by anyone who is not a member of their profession.

So they take up the position defined in the lines at the head of this article, "Stand for the right." Believing, to the bottom of their souls, that the future welfare of their profession depends upon its control of its own affairs, they steadfastly proclaim this belief, and endeavour, with all their power, to translate it into fact. Organisation along these lines may be slow, but "no good thing is failure, and no evil thing success."

There are many members of the Nursing Profession to-day who realise the vital importance of the views we have put forward, and on them depends its future welfare. The few who think, who put the well-being of their profession before self-interest and personal advantage, who are prepared to make sacrifices for it when the position demands such sacrifices, are those whose work will eventually have a deep and permanent influence.

The way may be rough, the gate narrow, for history proves that the demand of the worker for emancipation has always been most strenuously opposed, but it is the only entrance to the promised land.

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