

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD

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No. 1,804.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1922.

Vol. LXIX

EDITORIAL.

THE END OF THE COALITION.

The outstanding event of the week is the end of the Coalition Government and the coming into power of the Conservative Party with Mr. Bonar Law as Prime Minister. Immediately on the formation of his Government the Prime Minister has advised the King to dissolve Parliament, with the result that a General Election is to take place in the middle of November. We may expect the contest then to be between the Conservative Party and the Labour Party. Few people will desire to see a Coalition Government come into power again, for it would mean a sacrifice of principles on both sides, and a House of Commons governed by expediency. The Coalition may have served a useful purpose during the war, but its day of usefulness has passed, and a change is overdue.

Those who are observers of the portents of the times have little doubt that Labour will ultimately hold the reins of government, but at present we believe that the country will welcome a Conservative Government with Mr. Bonar Law at its head, for it is tired of excursions into the unknown, and desires peace and security at home and abroad, the revival of trade, and financial stability, all of which are most likely to be secured by a Government formed of experienced statesmen, versed in the amenities of diplomacy, and good sound men of business. Such a Government is most likely to be formed at the present time under the leadership of Mr. Bonar Law.

Our readers fall largely, we believe, into the two categories we have mentioned—Conservatives who hold to old traditions, and those who look for redemption through social evolution. The present times, however, are too critical for experimenting with a new form of Govern-

ment, with the inevitable mistakes and faults of inexperience, and we think that the result of the elections will prove that the country desires men experienced in affairs at the helm of the good ship of State, until her course lies in less troubled seas than at present.

What we need, before all, are men of integrity, patriotic spirit, wisdom and courage. These, we are aware, are not the exclusive possession of any one party. Nevertheless, we turn with relief to the Conservative Party in the faith that it can provide such men. Intelligent nurses have learnt to distrust the expediency of Coalition. To illustrate our contention: The Nurses' Registration Act for England and Wales provides a stepping-stone towards the professional uplift and self-government which nurses so ardently desire. But how has that Act been administered during the term of office of the late Minister of Health? We have no hesitation in saying that its administration has been soulless, ruthless, relentless. To foster and cherish that most precious thing, the soul of the Nursing Profession, should have been the aim of the Department. Instead, it has been trodden underfoot, and might, materialism, and expediency have been the dominating influences.

We note with a sigh of relief that Sir Alfred Mond handed over the seals of office on Wednesday last. The powerless threat in the House of Commons to have our Registration Act repealed cannot be recalled without justifiable indignation.

The nurses have nothing to lose and everything to gain from a change of administration at the Ministry of Health. Let us hope that the new Minister, Sir Arthur Griffith Boscawen, will understand the mentality of the section of the Nursing Profession who promoted and worked so loyally for legislation, and deal sympathetically with their aspirations.

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