

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
**THE NURSING RECORD**

EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

No. 1,847.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1923.

Vol. LXXI

## EDITORIAL.

### SELF HELP.

A most important department of nursing education is the preparation of members of the nursing profession for administrative posts, more especially for those hoping to take up positions as Matrons of hospitals with Nurse Training Schools attached, for, upon them will depend to a great extent the quality of the teaching given, as well as the ethical standard, and sense of public professional duty, instilled into probationers during the three years' term of training. Most trained nurses can testify to the abiding impression made upon them by the Matron under whom they trained, during these plastic years when they were susceptible to influence. Many are conscious that through her teaching, both by precept and practice, life has taken on many new meanings, that the profession upon which they embarked, perhaps with little thought except that it seemed likely to afford a congenial means of self support, now appears to them to offer the noblest, most honourable and satisfying of all the careers open to women. A changed attitude towards life on the part of the nurse is patent also to those who know her well, and who take the trouble to observe her, they note the irresponsible girl develop into a self reliant, capable woman, that while she retains her gaiety and charm there is superimposed upon it a gravity which becomes one who is in close contact with the realities of life—and death—whose daily task it is to sustain, to console, and to tend those who in weakness, sorrow, and pain turn to her for help. But if the years have traced lines of gravity upon her face, they have also left their mark in the sweetness, tenderness, com-

passion, and large-hearted tolerance which characterise her dealings with humanity.

What manner of woman must she be who, in addition to directing the professional training of the nurse, on the most approved professional lines, has the capacity so to develop her character that she shall add lustre to the profession of her choice? *The Canadian Nurse* in its current issue pertinently asks: "Is not the training school where each pupil receives her basic education in nursing sufficiently important to demand special certificates from those engaged in the administrative and instructive field? Ask those giving courses in public health in the Universities, what they think of the crying need for special training: Organizations like the Canadian Red Cross, and the V.O.N., give scholarships for the preparation of nurses to enter the fields financed by these organizations, but where shall we find the money to help the nurse in the same way to get her post graduate education for the hospital field?"

"As every nurse has to enter the training school of the general hospitals of our country in order to graduate, it would appear that we nurses are more interested in this talk than anyone else. We cannot leave this with a careless feeling that while it is sad, still it is not our business, for it is. We are the ones interested—first that the community be provided with competently trained women; that, in order to get such competence, pre-supposes a trained teacher and supervisor; and secondly, as citizens and taxpayers, we must protest against schools insufficiently equipped and staffed, whether the common schools of our country, or the secondary schools giving technical education, as the normal schools for the teacher, or the training schools for the nurse."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)