

**NURSING ECHOES.**

Thirty years' honorary Editorship of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick expires with our issue this week, during a quarter of a century of which time the Journal alone consistently advocated the Organisation of Nursing Education and Trained Nursing by the State, through a system of State Registration, largely controlled, as other professions are, by the Registered Nurses themselves. This policy has been maintained in the face of most unprincipled opposition upon the part of those hospital governors, medical practitioners on hospital staffs, and Matrons, who should have been the first to support the professional rights of the nurses.

In spite of this opposition the Nurses Registration Acts stand on the Statute Book, and, it is to be hoped, will in the future be administered by members of the Nursing Profession, with a just sense of professional responsibility.

This will not be, so long as executive power is in the hands of an interdependent profession. When the Chairs of the General Nursing Council, and all the Standing Committees, are occupied by Registered Nurses, as they should be, there will be some hope of progress and just economic as well as educational conditions. Until such time we cannot claim to be a self-respecting professional body, and remain a somewhat contemptible submerged class.

Will it take another thirty years to attain professional liberty of action? We should not wonder!

The centenary of the *Lancet* is at hand:— On Sunday, October 5th, 1823, the first number of the oldest Medical Journal saw the light, and in celebration of the event a Centenary Dinner will be held in London on the evening of Thursday, November 29th, at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.

The President of the Ministry of Health will attend, and Sir Donald MacAlister, President of the General Medical Council, will take the Chair. He is sure of wide medical support, as the *Lancet* has won through. Started by a great and fearless man, Mr. Thomas Wakley, as a medium for the promotion of medical reform, he passed through years of keen opposition and strenuous fighting for right. Was not his house burnt over his head? Was he not challenged to duels by his reactionary

opponents? Was he not persecuted and brow-beaten? (We nurse reformers keenly sympathise with this form of suffering.) And yet here we have the *Lancet*, a hundred years after, cooing like any sucking dove, in the first rank of medical journals, spoken well of by all men! Alas! we fear this is the story of all reforms worth winning. Human nature is not essentially courageous. Thanks be for paladins, few and far between.

Is it, or is it not demoralising, that nurses, young and old, should "have a bit on"? Several Matrons and others have asked us to touch upon betting by nurses. We hear the habit is a growing one, and is very prevalent, especially among private nurses, at the present time. We shall be pleased to have the matter discussed in this Journal, and reserve an expression of opinion, as we are too deeply impressed with its dangers to express an unbiassed one on the spur of the moment.

The many friends of Miss S. M. Marsters, Superintendent of the St. Marylebone and Paddington District Nursing Association, will hear with pleasure that she is now convalescing, after her recent severe operation, in that ideal spot, Bryn-y-Menai, Bangor, North Wales. She does not expect to be back in harness until the middle of November, and while she will be much missed not only in her own work, but at the Committees and Meetings which she attends so regularly, everybody will be glad that she is taking a real rest, and that she has the pleasure of the society of her sister, for in a strenuous professional life there is little time to enjoy intercourse with relatives and friends.

The Fifth Annual Dinner of the Urgency Cases Hospital, Bar-le-Duc, Revigny, 1915-1918, will take place on Saturday, October 20th, 1923, at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, London, at 6.30 for 7 o'clock. Tickets (excluding wine) 12s.

It is hoped that all those who were members of the staff will make a special effort to be present so that the reunion may be as complete as possible.

Tickets can be obtained from Mr. Arran, c/o Messrs. Arran & Orloff, 3, Bayer Street, Golden Lane, E.C.

To save unnecessary correspondence and postage it would be much appreciated if re-

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