

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
THE NURSING RECORD

EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

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## EDITORIAL.

### AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

This issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING carries with it the announcement to its subscribers, and readers, that the Directors of the Nursing Press, Ltd., have decided that in the coming year the JOURNAL will be published monthly instead of weekly. Our *clientèle* has always been so keenly appreciative of the policy and aspirations of the JOURNAL that we are fully aware it will receive this intimation with keen regret.

Quite recently we reminded our readers that we had acted as Honorary Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for thirty years, and we may add that few copies have been issued, in which every word has not been carefully read and weighed by us.

To help us during most of these years we have had the devoted assistance of Margaret Breay as Hon. Assistant Editor, and it would be useless to attempt to estimate the extraordinary amount of work she has accomplished for the uprise of the Nursing Profession. With less devotion, and less ability, it would have taken half a dozen women to fulfil her task. The time has come, as it invariably does, when a very heavy burden, borne by too few workers, must be lightened, and more leisure and rest secured, and this can only be attained by ceasing to revolve with the editorial wheel week in, and week out, involving ceaseless labour, which those who have taken no part in it are unable to estimate.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING—the pioneer professional Nurses' Journal in the world—has accomplished the monumental work for the Nursing Profession it set out to achieve—the Organisation of Trained Nursing by the State. For thirty years the JOURNAL prosecuted its policy in season and out of season, in the face of extraordinary and unscrupulous antagonism, inspired by autocratic privilege and self-interest; and when, on December 23rd, 1919, the Nurses' Registration Acts were inscribed on the Statute Book of these Realms, the triumph of Right over Might was never

more emphatically demonstrated. Little David, with his sling and his stone, and the crash to earth of his all-powerful opponent, recurs to memory. This lesson, if taken to heart, is ever an inspiration when setting out to remove mountains.

But the necessity for a Professional Voice in the press, straight and fearless, still exists. You cannot make people wise and generous by Act of Parliament. The question now is—Do the intelligent minority of Registered Nurses value this privilege sufficiently to support a monthly journal, which will watch their interests, support their demands, and report progress. Which, as heretofore, will report the pith of professional meetings, further the work of the free nurses' organisations, both national and international, prevent the submersion of nursing ideals by commercial interests, and which will also promote, by every means in its power, the National Health.

We know from close association with many readers that they really love the JOURNAL. That our announcement that they will not welcome a weekly copy will be a real grief to them. The question of the moment is—Are they prepared to pay for, and support, a monthly issue? We desire to test how deeply they do value a fearless voice in the press. We propose that the cost of a somewhat enlarged issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which includes the *Nursing Record* and *Midwives' Supplement*, shall be 6d. a month, together with a penny for postage—7d. monthly. If, therefore, our readers wish to continue to subscribe to it under the new conditions, they will find a Form on page ii of cover, of our advertisement pages, and we ask them to fill it in and return it *without delay* to the Manager, B.J.N., 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

If we receive 5,000 affirmative replies, the JOURNAL will during 1924 be published monthly, price 7s. per annum, post free. We particularly ask present subscribers through the Office to reply "Yes" or "No" on the Form supplied. If those who have a balance still standing to their credit intimate their wish for it to be returned, it will be sent in due course. If not,

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