

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD

EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

No. 1,864.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1923.

Vol. LXXI

EDITORIAL.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

This issue of the Journal carries with it cordial Christmas greetings to our readers. Trained nurses are amongst those who come in contact with the humanities, and it is their privilege to diffuse, in a world in which there is much sorrow and suffering, something of the joy of Christmas-tide, though it be but a brief lifting of the cloud which hangs over so many homes, whether from sickness, bereavement, or unemployment, and, in so doing, those who have private sorrow will find the greatest solace.

Of all the Holy Seasons Christmas is perhaps the one most universally welcomed, and observed with the greatest merriment and goodwill, for it is pre-eminently the children's festival, and where there are children there is innocence, happy anticipation, and joy in the fulfilment of that anticipation. Those who look back to the delight of Christmas in their own childhood will realise the pleasure of making happy the lives of the present generation, and will take some pains to do so.

In hospitals, and in the homes of the sick, the trained nurse may be a tower of strength, to whom they instinctively turn, and it is her high privilege also, in houses where bereavement has entered, to sustain and comfort, and to diffuse something of the deeper meaning of the season.

But our thoughts extend beyond the Homeland, to the Empire's Colonies and Dominions beyond the Seas, to nurses working under the tropical sun, and in icebound regions where the sun scarcely penetrates in the winter months, especially do we send greetings to the members of the National Councils of Nurses

with whom we are affiliated in the International Council, and to those Hon. Vice-Presidents who are doing pioneer work in countries where nursing is not yet sufficiently organised for National Councils to be formed, and are meeting difficulties, often single-handed, with courage and wisdom. To all these the *Journal* carries its warmest greetings, and the assurance of its sympathy and admiration.

As we look forward into the future we see vistas down which there are illimitable opportunities for the expansion of the work of nurses—opportunities bounded only by their capacity for response. More and more clearly we see such opportunities in the prevention of disease, in ante-natal centres, in infant welfare clinics, in the schools, in the homes, where the dissemination and assimilation of knowledge on health questions will bring happiness and increased capacity.

It is a high mission, and if carried out in the spirit which should be absorbed in the Christmas season—a spirit of love and goodwill—must bear fruits in improved relations between individuals, families, communities, and nations. The message of Christmas is that we endeavour to carry these in our hearts all the year round, and to communicate them to those with whom we come in contact.

The Shepherd and the King,
The Angel and the Ass,
They heard Sweet Mary sing
When her joy was come to pass;
They heard Sweet Mary sing
To the Babe on her knee.
Sing again, Sweet Mary,
And we will sing with thee.

*Earth, bear a berry!
Heaven, bear a light!
Man, make you merry
On Christmas Night.*

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