

But if this group of nurses desire to have a free voice in the press we wish to impress upon them that they must be prepared to support it financially. Although most nurses are not women of business, they must realise that in the production of a paper every item concerned costs three times as much as it did before the war.

Owing to the voluntary editorship of the Journal, which will continue, and the most generous clerical help given, the annual subscription of 7s. is only calculated to cover the cost of printing, paper, and the minimum of office expenditure. Here we desire to emphasise the fact that in nearly every business it is the middle man who absorbs a large share of the available income. The free nurses should therefore obviously eliminate as far as possible waste of money on intermediaries. Thus, instead of ordering their copies of the Journal through a succession of newsagents, which absorbs more than a third of the price which they pay for it, they should send their annual subscriptions of 7s. direct to the Office of the Journal at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1, when the whole amount of their subscription is available for the production of their paper.

We therefore place a subscription form on page iii (inside of back cover), and invite our readers to send their subscriptions direct to the Manager at the Office. In addition to benefiting the Journal financially they will receive the advantage that their copies will be posted to them on the dates of issue.

We have to thank our subscribers for the kindest and most encouraging of letters, a few of which appear in this issue. We feel sure they mean every word they write; and these expressions of opinion have given the sincerest gratification to the Editor and Sub-Editor, for they know that the Journal has been to the readers not merely "one of the nursing papers," but a vital force, guiding, inspiring, teaching, helping self-respecting nurses to uphold the principle of self-determination, and a weekly joy and uplift to isolated nurses.

We invite each friend who appreciates the work which THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is alone doing for the nurses of this country to endeavour to obtain other subscribers, and so increase its influence and consolidate its financial position.

The January issue of the Journal will be published on January 18th, and the February issue on February 1st, so that the transformation from a weekly to a monthly will be gradually accomplished.

NURSING ECHOES.

When we think of Happy Christmases, our mind goes back to those spent within hospital walls, where the true Christmas spirit always seems supreme. There is a great thing in tradition, and the tradition of hospitals is that everyone—doctors, matron, sisters, nurses, chaplain and kind friends—combine to make the season, and especially Christmas Day, one of the happiest ever spent by both in-patients and out-patients.

This year, in both London and provincial hospitals, the Christmas tradition holds full sway, and thousands of happy people—men, women and children, especially children—are, in spite of disabilities, experiencing what the spirit of Christmas means; from the moment when they wake early to find the gift left on their pillows by Santa Claus, until the last light has been turned down at night, the children have enjoyed every moment.

Where every hospital excels, whether in carol-singing, entertainments, or entrancing Christmas-trees laden with good things for young and old, it is invidious to mention any particularly. But particularly do we think of the Maternity Hospitals, for it seems specially appropriate that gifts should be offered to the babes born in poverty, on the day when we commemorate the birth of the Holy Child, laid in the Manger Throne at Bethlehem because there was no room in the Inn.

Our contemporary *Time and Tide*, referring to a letter in the *Daily Herald* on the heavy conditions of a night nurse's work, signed "Another Night Nurse," in which it is asked "When will nurses receive a little consideration?" says: "The answer is easy. 'When the profession obtains self-government and releases itself from the control of even the kindest of medical and lay executives.'" We are glad that this truth is being grasped by a paper which counts with thoughtful women, and is undoubtedly the best weekly women's paper we have.

We are glad to note that Mr. Wellman, a Brighton Poor Law Guardian, has boldly expressed his opinion that a highly educated type of woman is urgently required to fill the position of probationer at the Brighton Poor Law Infirmary, and that girls who fail as nurses and take "barmaids' jobs," are not temperamentally the type of probationer required. Of course, the lay press attempts to confuse the issues, and, as usual, claims that what is of importance is the

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