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EDITORIAL.

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

We are glad to know that good progress is being made with the Fund for the National Memorial to Queen Alexandra, so that we may hope a sum will be contributed which will be an adequate expression of the Empire's affection and homage to a much-loved Queen, and will also substantially further the object which Queen Alexandra had so greatly at heart, the care of the sick poor, through the ministrations of thoroughly Trained Queen's Nurses.

The total sum received, or promised, to August 13th, which is the last date for which returns are available is £104,547 17s. 8d., of which £40,246 18s. has been contributed by England and Wales, £40,000 by Scotland, and £5,160 5s. 6d. by Northern and Southern Ireland.

Of this total amount the Nursing Profession, through the Fund organised by Dame Maud McCarthy, have contributed £1,500, £250 17s. being a special donation from Superintendents of Queen's Nurses, connected with Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.

Donations from the Royal Warrant Holders, from whom £357 has been received, are being devoted to the formation of an endowment fund for training annually one or more Queen's Nurses, than which nothing could be more useful.

A THREE-FOLD BOND.

One of the delightful features in connection with the British College of Nurses is the enthusiasm which the news of the great Gift of £100,000 for the foundation of this self-governing institution of Nurses has aroused in our Dominions Overseas, to the furthest bounds of the Empire, to which it has been carried by THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING—a reflection of which may be found in our correspondence columns each month—as well as amongst British Nurses working abroad. Another is the pleasure and generosity with which the news has been welcomed by our colleagues in other countries. They realise with Miss Adda Eldridge (who, as President of the American Nurses' Association, came into intimate touch with so many of the world's nurses at the Congress convened by the International Council of Nurses at Helsingfors last year) that "such recognition of Nursing as a Profession can be but a benefit to the whole world."

It has been said that British people never fully realise the greatness and the strength of the British Empire until they leave their island home and witness its power Overseas. However that may be it is certain, as was demonstrated beyond possibility of doubt in the Great

War, that the Mother Country, and the Dominions, are indissolubly united—as recently emphasised by the Bishop of London in an address to troops at Ottawa—by the three-fold bond of common blood, language, and flag.

"A three-fold cord is not quickly broken," and the foundation of the Nurses' College at the heart of the Empire is welcomed by British Nurses far and wide.

Again, pleasure is expressed that the ceremonial side of the College will not be lacking, for ceremony plays an important part in the life of a people, and of its component parts. Who, for instance, that was present in the House of Lords on December 23rd, 1919, when with pageantry, and all circumstance and honour, the Royal Assent was given to the Nurses' Registration Bills in that beautiful Chamber, can ever forget the occasion, or the throb of emotion with which they heard the simple and dignified declaration "Le Roy le Veult," by which thirty years of endeavour to obtain right and justice for trained nurses and the community, by the recognition of Nursing as a Profession, was brought to a successful conclusion? The nurses had proved their case, the King willed that the Nurses' Registration Acts should be established, the fight fought to a finish had ended in victory.

The British College of Nurses therefore is following the example of the Mother of Parliaments, and other ancient bodies, in observing due ceremony at the functions when Members and Fellows are admitted to share its privileges and responsibilities, and also that of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons in providing that the President, Vice Presidents, and Members of the Council shall be entitled to wear a distinctive Academic Robe. This will undoubtedly add to the dignity and impressiveness of such functions.

Pleasure has also been expressed that the Council will open its meetings with Prayers, and in thus invoking the Divine Guidance on its deliberations it once again is following the historic custom of the Houses of Lords and Commons, and affirming its belief that:—

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of . . .

For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them friend?
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God."

"Start then, little ship, upon thy course. May the wise Hand in whose shadow we live, speed thee, steer thee, deign to use thee." Such we feel is the wish of "those whom many a land divides" amongst the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses.

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