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EDITORIAL.

A MOMENTOUS EVENT.

The recommendation made at the meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, on September 25th, and unanimously agreed to, that THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING shall be one of the benefits received free by Fellows and Members—and which the Finance Committee supports—is one of the momentous events in the history of Nursing which is calculated to have far-reaching influence throughout the world.

Miss Lavinia Dock, the brilliant historian of Nursing, once did us the honour of stating that the whole history of Nursing Organisation is to be found in the pages of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Of this expression of opinion the Editors are justly proud.

What is written is written—and throughout the pages of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will be found a fearless demand for higher ethical standards, State Registration, State organised education, just economic conditions, and professional control for nurses—a policy and propaganda which have for upwards of thirty-five years clashed with reactionary forces maintained by persons without vision, and by an unprincipled press.

What this policy has cost the few the majority will never know. Suffice it to say it is recognised that the JOURNAL is not to be bought, nor its soul suppressed.

The Editor therefore hopes that she will have the active sympathy and help of Fellows and Members of the College, of tried friends and of new supporters, in increasing the use and popularity of their official organ, which, since its inception in 1888, has stood without tremor for all that has raised Nursing from a disorganised and powerless occupation to a highly organised Profession, firmly based on legal status with power of self-expression and action.

The Editor invites expressions of opinion and suggestions from the ever-increasing circle of readers, which will result in all parts of the world from the momentous decision of the Council of the British College of Nurses for the evolution and expansion of the JOURNAL, in directions calculated to benefit the Nursing Profession, and the community, as the result of knowledge tempered with wisdom.

In designing the Diploma for presentation, let us hope at no distant date, to Fellows and Members of the College the Council at its recent sitting desired inscribed on it as its watch words—Knowledge, —Service—Charity—and Honour. If we keep these forces in the forefront of our JOURNAL's policy it will become an illimitable power for righteousness in its association with humanity.

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

The decision that the National Memorial to Queen Alexandra shall take the form of an extension of the work of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses has naturally given prominence to the work of Queen's Nurses, and Dr. Arthur Shadwell, in a series of articles in *The Times* has drawn public attention to its value, as well as to the origin and history of district nursing work, of which he gives a very interesting *résumé*.

Writing on pioneer work, as started by the late Mr. W. Rathbone in Liverpool, Dr. Shadwell refers to the beginning of district nursing there by Mrs Robinson, initiated by Mr. William Rathbone, who was so impressed by the value of the nurse's care in his own family that he persuaded her to undertake the work of attending the sick poor in their own homes, to nurse them, and to teach them how to help themselves. At first Mrs. Robinson was so discouraged by the misery she encountered that she asked to be released at the end of a month, but was induced to continue by the argument that much of the evil she had seen might be prevented, and by the hope of preventing it. At the end of three months she had found so much satisfaction in the real and certain good she had been able to do that she begged to be allowed to devote herself entirely to it. "The timely and skilled care had not only restored the sick to health in several cases, but had had secondary effects of still greater value in lifting the family to independence."

With the writer we should like to know more of this pioneer and devoted nurse.

"But," says Dr. Shadwell, after describing the foundation and development of the Q.V.J.I., "the demand for nurses always outstripped the supply. It was not merely due to the spread of district nursing proper, though that went on. The increasing attention paid to matters of health had led to the enactment of various measures which placed new responsibilities on Government Departments, and local authorities, requiring for their fulfilment the assistance of persons possessing just the knowledge and experience of the district nursing staff."

Subscriptions to this National Memorial can be sent to the Headquarters of the Fund, 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1, for England and Wales; 50, George Street, Edinburgh, for Scotland; and as regards Ireland, to the Head Office of the Irish Branch, 36, South Frederick Street, Dublin, or to the Lord Mayor of Belfast, City Hall, Belfast; or to any local organization authorized to collect for the Fund. Donations may be allocated to a particular county or district.

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