

are their employers. Long hours, small salaries, are in the employers' interests, and a paper which voices the views of the nurses in regard to shorter hours and salaries commensurate with their skilled work, which will enable them to live with reasonable freedom from financial anxiety during their working days, and to make provision for the days when they can no longer work, is apt to be regarded as dangerous and to be placed on an *Index Expurgatorius*.

When interests diverge organs financed by employers naturally express the employers' views, and, if nurses have no organ of their own, it is certain they will be heavily handicapped, for it is not to the interest of the daily Press to give valuable space to the affairs of nurses, who are not sufficiently rich to give a *quid pro quo*, in the shape of advertisements.

A notable instance of this is that in Great Britain: throughout the whole of the struggle for State Registration of Nurses, the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING had to contend with a most virulent opposition on the part of the commercial nursing Press. It certainly retarded our State Registration for over a quarter of a century; but, Registration having been obtained, in spite of its opposition, it is now on the side of the angels.

I have expressed the view that one aim of a professional journal should be that of high literary merit. It is an honourable tradition with every true nurse to give the best professional service in her power without pausing to ask whether she has given more than the exact equivalent in pounds, shillings, and pence: the same thing should hold good in her relation to her professional organ. In my view every nurse should consider it a duty to subscribe to such an organ—by which I mean, one owned, edited, and controlled by nurses. Again, many nurses who cannot afford to contribute directly to its financial support have considerable literary ability, and it is always the aim of editors to secure such ability. I put it to those present, that they should consider it an obligation of honour to place their contributions in professionally edited journals.

If all nurses exhibited this loyalty to professional ideals, commercial nursing journals, which are frankly out to make financial profit from their expert knowledge and talent, would "fold their tents like the Arabs, and as silently steal away" to more lucrative pastures.

It is a curious fact, which I believe every editor of a professional journal in this hall will endorse, that nurses appear willing to write on almost any other subject than that on which they are qualified to express an opinion.

Experiences, fairy tales, descriptive articles, yes—but the average nurse seems to be as diffident as a new probationer in writing articles on practical nursing subjects, concerning which her knowledge entitles her to respect and attention.

In conclusion, I submit that the first aim of a professional journal is, not the making dividends, important and desirable as they may be, but fearlessly, courageously and forcefully to support, and to voice, the best interests of nurses, which are the interests of the community, as to the care of the sick, the prevention of disease, and the raising of the standard of the National Health.

It is a worthy and satisfying object for a life's work. All honour to those pioneers in every country who have chosen this difficult way.

### DISCUSSION.

#### Literature on District Nursing and Public Health.

Miss Ada Carr, Editor of the *Public Health Nurse*, the organ of the National Organisation for Public Health Nursing, U.S.A., said she was going to disappoint her audience, because she was going to talk on district nursing and public health. It was surprising what a large increase there was in the literature on this subject, which might be divided into three periods. The first date from the late nineteenth century, the second from 1900-1912, and the third from 1912 to date. She then enumerated the principal pamphlets and books bearing on this subject in chronological order, including Miss Nightingale's early pamphlets, books by Miss Mary Loane, the *Queen's Nurses Magazine*, the *Public Health Nurse*, "Visiting Nursing," by Isabella Waters, and many others.

#### An Organ for Discussion and Criticism.

Mrs. Patrick Chesney said that a professional journal should aim at being classical, *i.e.*, universal and perpetual—with due regard to the fundamental law that "Action and Reaction are equal and opposite."

The chief aim should be to record faithfully all that is being done, or is proposed to be done in the profession, and in addition it should be an organ for discussion and criticism.

A nursing journal should present the history of nursing day by day, week by week, month by month, and the development in the science and practice of the profession.

It should record its organisations and its activities, its aims and ideals, and the means proposed or adopted for realising them, so that the reader of the journal be in the best possible position for forming his own opinion on these matters.



By courtesy of *The Canadian Nurse*  
From a portrait recently hung in the Nurses' Residence,  
Toronto General Hospital.

Miss M. A. SNIVELY,  
Councillor and First Hon. Treasurer International Council of  
Nurses. Formerly Lady Superintendent, General Hospital, Toronto,  
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