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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

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## EDITORIAL.

### IMPORTANT DECISIONS.

At the meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, on April 28th, several important decisions were announced and we hope that Fellows and Members will study with special care the report published in this issue. We feel sure that they will receive with pleasure the announcement made in the report of the Education Committee, that £1,000 will be available next July for educational purposes during the following twelve months, and will realise the sympathetic understanding with which their Council has apportioned this sum.

The comparatively recent position of Sister-Tutor is an attractive one to Nurses with a faculty for teaching, and to whom the educational side of their profession appeals, and further, there is a demand for well qualified Sister-Tutors and therefore the prospects are good for Nurses who can show that they hold the necessary credentials. The expense of the special training, however, is considerable, and the decision of the Council to award four grants of £50 to Fellows or Members desirous of taking one of the recognised courses of training in this special branch will, we feel sure, be a welcome one.

Again, Fellows and Members who realise that their training is incomplete without a knowledge of midwifery, but who find difficulty in meeting the expense involved in obtaining this, will note with satisfaction that the Council has decided to give three grants of £35 each towards the expense of midwifery training. Not only is such training highly desirable in itself, but the possession of the certificate of the Central Midwives Board has a definite economic value to Nurses, for it is now an essential qualification for many positions both at home and abroad.

Fellows and Members of the College will learn with pleasure that the Council of the College realise the great educational value as well as pleasure of attendance at professional and scientific Congresses, and are giving grants for this purpose, both in connection with the International Congress on Tuberculosis, in Rome in September, and with the International Nursing Congress in Montreal next year. We are of opinion that none of the grants which it is proposed to make will be more valuable, or more valued than these.

The subject of Insurance, and the benefits to be obtained thereby is one little understood by nurses as a whole. The decision of the Council of the College therefore to give them the opportunity of hearing it explained by an expert is one which should not be missed. Far from being a dry subject as many nurses appear to think, it is one of great interest, as well as of vital importance.

### THE PRIVATE NURSE.

There is no one upon whom the public is more dependent in sickness than the private nurse, and those nurses who practise this branch of their profession should thoughtfully consider their fitness for this very special duty.

For the house of sickness is holy ground. Not only must the patient be considered. Often the members of the family are in bitter distress and sorrow, and an important part of the nurse's duty is then to be a support and comfort to them, and to inspire confidence throughout the household.

That the nurse should be well qualified professionally, and give the guarantee of Registration by the State, is essential, but in dealing with physical suffering and mental distress, the question of personality enters largely also. Most of us have in our minds our ideal nurse. Some of us have met her. "She has—

A sweet attractive kind of grace,  
A full assurance given by looks,  
Continual comfort in a face,  
The lineaments of Gospel books.

And, in connection with the "assurance given by looks," one of the greatest aids to a nurse on entering a house is a uniform, neat, modest, trim, spotless, and well cut, and professional in appearance.

There is no need for a nurse to emulate the prevailing fashion, especially at the present time. Low necks and ultra short skirts are quite out of place, as well as in bad taste.

The "virtuous woman," whose price is above rubies, light of touch, and tender of heart, is the one to whom the sick instinctively turn, and trust. The nurse who faithfully fulfils the Obligation which she takes as a Fellow or a Member of the British College of Nurses, or the Florence Nightingale Pledge taken by the Nurses of many Canadian and American Hospitals upon their graduation is the nearest to our ideal. The latter pledge is not well-known in Great Britain, and we publish it below:—

I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to pass my life in purity, and to practise my profession faithfully. I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug. I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standing of my profession, and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practise of my calling; with loyalty will I endeavour to aid the Physician in his work and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.

The office of a nurse is a sacred one, needing a vocation as well as training to discharge aright.

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