

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD

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No. 1,917.

APRIL, 1928.

Vol. LXXVI

EDITORIAL.

THE EDITOR'S JUBILEE OF PROFESSIONAL WORK.

"HONEST LABOUR WEARS A LOVELY FACE."

The publication of the current issue of *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* brings with it the opportunity to place on record the fact that the Editor attained her Jubilee of fifty years' professional work and service as a member of the Nursing Profession on April 1st, 1928.

Mrs. Fenwick (then Miss Ethel Manson) entered the Children's Hospital, Nottingham, as a paying probationer on April 1st, 1878.

From September, 1878–September, 1879, she was trained as a paying probationer at the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, when she was offered, and accepted, the position of Sister of Charlotte Ward at the London Hospital, then containing fifty-three beds.

On April 1st, 1881, she was appointed, at the age of four and twenty, Matron and Superintendent of Nursing at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, upon the recommendation of the then Treasurer, Sir Sydney Waterlow, who had personally visited, without notice, the wards in her charge, even inspecting the cupboards, and acquainting himself with the opinion of the committee and the medical staff as to the standard of her work.

From 1881 to 1887 Mrs. Fenwick spent six strenuous years in organising the Nursing School at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, instituting the three years' term of training, adding to the examination a test in practical nursing, and awarding marks for personal devotion to the sick, ward management, and a high standard of personal discipline.

Upon her recommendation a Gold Medal was annually awarded to the nurse who attained the highest standard of knowledge and conduct—an incentive to a high standard of training which is still in force.

In 1887 Miss Manson married Dr. Bedford Fenwick, and in that year they conjointly promoted the British Nurses' Association for the organisation of the Nursing Profession, to be attained ultimately by an Act of Parliament for the State Registration of Nurses, enforcing a standard of training controlled and examined by State authority.

The forty years dating from 1887 to the present time have found Mrs. Fenwick actively engaged in strenuous public duty, first working for the Royal Charter for the Royal British Nurses' Association, and from 1893 as the Hon. Editor of *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*. In 1904 she drafted the first Nurses' Registration Bill, the basis of the Acts passed

in 1919, which incorporated her suggestion for the government of the nursing profession by a General Nursing Council. Upon the first of these Councils for England and Wales she was invited to act, by the then Minister of Health, during which term of office she put forward a scheme for the organisation of the work of the Council by standing committees, helped to draft the Rules, and designed the form for the Nurses' published Register, including the qualification of existing nurses, as issued under the authority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

In 1899 Mrs. Fenwick proposed, in London, the organisation of the International Council of Nurses, which in less than thirty years has federated the professional organisations of nurses throughout the world.

As President of the British College of Nurses—endowed with the gift of £100,000—Mrs. Fenwick hopes to encourage a just sense of professional and personal responsibility in the nursing profession in Great Britain, through self-government, a privilege enjoyed by trained nurses in the majority of the Dominions, in the United States of America, and in many European countries.

The Policy of *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* during her term of office as active working Editor has been largely responsible for the demand for legal status throughout the world, for higher technical and practical education for nurses, in their devoted service for the sick, and for high standards of public health.

Good health and high spirit are the blessings for which Mrs. Fenwick thanks God, which have made life for her a splendid experience, and it is these combined blessings she wishes humanity to enjoy to the fullest extent, and which women engaged in the privileged profession of nursing have largely in their power to promote.

"Honest labour wears a lovely face."

M. B.

THE TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

As we report in another column the question of the stationary maternal mortality rate in England and Wales, in spite of improved conditions, the National Health Maternity Benefit, and the increasing supply of Certified Midwives, is giving the Ministry of Health considerable concern.

Intimately connected with this question is the efficient supply and distribution of midwives, and the attraction of the right type of woman to midwifery work.

It is therefore satisfactory to know that in reply to a question in the House of Commons from Sir Robert Thomas, Sir Kingsley Wood stated that the Minister of Health is taking steps to set up a Committee to inquire into the question of the training and supply of Midwives.

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