

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD

EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

No. 1,947. Vol. 78.

OCTOBER, 1930.

Price Sevenpence

EDITORIAL.

REGISTRATION DAY.

The Editor makes an Appeal.

On December 23rd, 1919, a little group of trained nurses, from the vantage point of the crimson benches of the House of Lords, listened with emotion, and unutterable thankfulness, to the proclamation of the Royal Assent to the Nurses' Registration Acts for England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, in the quaint old Norman French, still used on these occasions, "Le Roy le Veult." (The King wills it.)

As one who has been privileged to play no mean part in securing this legislation we consider that a definite Commemoration of this historic event, of such outstanding importance to the sick of the community, and the nurses who serve it, should be celebrated each year.

The Council of the British College of Nurses at the end of December last year inaugurated such a ceremony by cutting with due circumstance a Registration Cake, specially decorated, and surrounded by candles for each year which had elapsed since the Acts were passed, and those who took part in it were of opinion that the occasion was both interesting and inspiring and should be an annual event.

This year it is hoped to greatly increase the interest in this Annual Commemoration and the Editor appeals to Registered Nurses—not only to those who subscribed so generously towards the cost of promoting legislation, but, more especially, to those who have benefited by it since the passing of the Nursing Acts, for donations small and large—both will be welcome—to purchase a very lovely silver platter upon which to cut the cake, an opportunity having arisen for its acquisition. Already a beautiful silver knife and fork have been presented, and an eighteenth century tartlet slice, made by the great silversmith, Hester Bateman, will, we hear, be used for the purpose of distributing the cake.

Already the Editor has received a few donations towards the acquisition of this fine piece of plate. Its price is thirty guineas, and she very much hopes that before December next she may have the opportunity of purchasing the platter, to be preserved among the treasured possessions of the Nursing Profession, when the names of all those who subscribe will be inscribed in a book specially designed for the purpose.

We hope that other Nurses' Organisations will consider what they can do to commemorate Registration Day, the significance of which the younger generation of nurses should be taught to appreciate.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

One of the results of the Local Government Act, 1929, is that the Minister of Health has issued a circular to the County Councils (except the London County Council) enclosing a copy of a Memorandum as to the survey to be undertaken, and the preparation of a scheme for the provision of adequate hospital accommodation for the treatment of infectious disease under Section 63 of the Act. He further appends to the Memorandum a questionnaire asking pointed questions as to fencing, water supply, means of sewage disposal, heating, artificial lighting, number of separate buildings, accommodation for patients, administrative accommodation, and whether it is adequate for all the nursing and domestic staff employed, whether the kitchen and cooking arrangements are adequate, whether telephones are installed, whether there is an adequate laundry, whether there are at the hospital a disinfecting apparatus, an ambulance, a mortuary, a porter's lodge, cottages for the outdoor staff, and lastly, whether there is a Resident Medical Officer.

All these are very necessary questions, and it is a matter of common knowledge that in many of these particulars, a large number of the smaller infectious hospitals are inadequate. But we regret to find that no question is asked as to the qualifications of the Matron or Nurse-in-Charge, a most important matter at all times, and particularly when there is no Resident Medical Officer, when great responsibility devolves upon this official. It should, of course, be a *sine qua non* that she should be a Registered Nurse. Information as to the proportion of Registered Nurses to patients by day and by night, and the number of probationers employed should also be required.

It is with deep thankfulness that Registered Nurses will learn that the Minister of Health is making a systematic enquiry into the conditions in infectious hospitals for they know well, and deplore, that in many of these hospitals the nursing staff is insufficient and the nursing inefficient. They know also that in no section of nursing is it more imperative that it should be of the very best, and that efficiency may make the difference between the life and death of a patient, between the occurrence of cross infection and uninterrupted recovery. The necessity for the observance of strict asepsis in the swabbing of throats, and many other points will also occur to trained nurses.

We hope the effect of the Local Government Act of 1929 will be to raise the standard of Nursing in infectious hospitals throughout the country.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)