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## EDITORIAL.

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

"So hallowed and so gracious is the time."

A little Child with a heart so wide  
It takes the whole world in.  
This is God's message at Christmastide  
To the world He came to win.  
May the light of Thy love, dear Christ Child, shine  
On every land and race,  
That all the world in that Heart of Thine  
May find a Resting Place.

A. R. G.

Our present issue carries to our friends near and far our heartiest Christmas and New Year's Greetings, for so far-flung is the influence of this Journal that for some of its readers the hallowed and gracious Christmas time will have passed before it delivers our greeting.

Very specially does it carry messages of good will to all the Members of the Associations affiliated in the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and to all our dear colleagues of the International Council of Nurses, whose Associations in twenty-nine countries encircle the world, so that the Nursing Sisterhood is bound together in the Concord of which Mlle. Chaptal spoke so beautifully when she gave it as the Watchword to the International Council of Nurses this year.

Many nurses will spend Christmas Day in hospitals, and although their thoughts turn naturally homewards, to the happy family gatherings under their own roof-tree, the majority will unhesitatingly affirm that a hospital is the happiest place in which to pass the sacred season. And the reason is not far to seek, for to every true nurse the joy of service comes before personal pleasure.

What greater joy can there be than to serve the sick, to relieve their pain, to see the gleam of gladness in the tired eyes of those upon whom the strain of life presses so hardly, as the warmth, the comfort, the good cheer, the brightness of the hospital ward envelops them? Christmas in hospital is a day to be remembered, and to be spoken of on many succeeding anniversaries by those who have once experienced its joys.

And what of the children? From the first moment when the carol singers invite them to "salute the happy morn," and expectant little heads are raised to see what Father Christmas has left in the stockings which they trustfully hung up over night, until the last good-nights have been said and the lights lowered, the day has been one of entrancing delight. The Festival of the Birth of the Holy Child is ever one of joy and gladness for little children throughout the ages.

### EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

The outstanding event of 1933, and of world-wide importance, has been the quadrennial meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Paris and Brussels and the Congress organised in connection with it, in which nurses of 43 nationalities participated. As already reported in this Journal, the Council was accorded all honour both in France and Belgium, by the Rulers of both States, and by its own distinguished members, and we therefore now content ourselves with this brief reference to an event of great importance in the Nursing World, only placing on record the pleasure of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain that the International Council of Nurses elected as its President for the ensuing quadrennial period Miss Alicia Lloyd Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital, and Superintendent of the Nightingale Training School for Nurses. We wish Miss Lloyd Still, in the name of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, in its official organ, a happy and fruitful term of office.

The organisation on the initiative of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Foundation was endorsed by the International Council of Nurses at its meeting in July, and by the League of Red Cross Societies. Various National Councils of Nurses are forming similar joint Committees, and everything is now in train for the establishment of a really adequate international educational Memorial to the great Founder of modern nursing, through the co-operation of nurses and the public, inspired and supported by the enthusiasm of trained nurses.

A notable event of the year was the History Dinner, organised by the British College of Nurses, held in London in May. The presence and Procession in costume, of representatives of historic Royal Nurses, magnificently arrayed, made the occasion one of unique distinction, the interest of which was greatly augmented by the fine descriptive Oration of Miss Isabel Macdonald. By invitation the Procession and Oration were later repeated in Paris during the International Congress of Nurses.

An event to be noted also has been the centralisation of the Headquarters of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing and the Midwives Institute in a spacious and convenient house in Lower Belgrave Street, together with the offices of the National Birthday Trust Fund, through the generosity of which this arrangement has been made possible.

The record of the year is one of great progress in the Nursing World.

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