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EDITORIAL.

"MY LIFE'S AIM."

For the first time His Majesty the King broadcasted on Christmas Day a message of greeting to his people in all parts of the Empire, which was heard with emotion by thousands of nurses, and appreciated by them as a model of speech and feeling.

The King said:—

Through one of the marvels of modern science, I am enabled this Christmas Day to speak to all my peoples throughout the Empire. I take it as a good omen that wireless should have reached its present perfection at a time when the Empire has been linked in closer union, for it offers us immense possibilities to make that union closer still. It may be that our future will lay upon us more than one stern test. Our past will have taught us how to meet it unshaken. For the present the work to which we are all equally bound is to arrive at a reasoned tranquillity within our borders, to regain prosperity without self-seeking, and to carry with us those whom the burden of past years has disheartened or overborne. My life's aim has been to serve as I might towards those ends. Your loyalty, your confidence in me, has been my abundant reward. I speak now from my home and from my heart to you all; to men and women as cut off by the snows, the desert, or the sea that only voices out of the air can reach them; to those cut off from fuller life by blindness, sickness, or infirmity, and to those who are celebrating this day with their children and their grandchildren—to all, to each, I wish a happy Christmas. God bless you.

Where it was possible, reciprocal greetings were also transmitted, and at the end of the King's speech the National Anthem was played.

The peoples of the world have ceased to think of the Crown worn by King George V as a flashing bauble of glory, but recognise it as a circlet of service, not only to those who owe him allegiance, but to those great nationals whose friendship he values in maintaining the peace of the world.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Instinct with kind feeling wafted on innumerable waves, good wishes have been conveyed for a Happy New Year to our King and Queen from around the whole world, which holds them in reverential affection.

NURSING IN 1933.

We are of opinion that 1933 is going to be a year of great activity in the Nursing World, as two important events take place in it. First it is the quinquennial year, when new General Nursing Councils are elected, and second it is the Nurses International year in which they will foregather from all quarters of the globe to take counsel together. In drafting the Nurses' Registration Bills, which became law in 1919, certain principles were incorporated; one that Governing Bodies, the General Nursing Councils, should be established to prescribe the training, education, examination, and to maintain discipline for the profession of Nursing. The Acts established Nursing as a Profession, granted legal status to its Registered members, and provided for a measure of self government. These are great privileges which the promoters of statutory registration realised to the full when the first General Nursing Council came into office and drafted the Statutory Rules, and designed the Register, which is a model of what such a Register should be.

Only thirteen years have passed, and only a limited number of those who promoted statutory registration of Nurses and prescribed the Rules remain to maintain the fundamental principles incorporated in them; let us hope their successors will realise the sacred duty of conserving them. A great Profession like Nursing needs time and fostering care to realise its potential value to the community, and can only attain the height of its usefulness by placing duty far ahead of every other consideration. The welfare of the patient must come first. The education of the nurse, her conditions of training and life should be organised to attain this end, primarily she is to be a missionary of health, and a skilled manipulator of, and sympathetic attendant on, the sick in mind, and the body diseased.

This is woman's work, and in undeveloped girlhood we cannot expect to find the knowledge inspired by social experience to fit her for such responsibility. The new General Nursing Council, in considering the long deferred duty of prescribing the scheme of training for nurses, has a great opportunity in harmonising diverse opinions to this end which are known to exist. We wish them all success.

Progress there must be, and we place in the forefront of progress fundamental principles of organisation:

- (1) The Inspection of Nurse Training Schools by Registered Nurses;
- (2) The testing by examination of all Nurse Examiners; and
- (3) Remuneration of Hospitals by Student Nurses.

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