

## THE PROGRESS OF NURSING DURING THE KING'S REIGN, 1910—1935.

The many activities and important events in the King's Reign are dealt with fully elsewhere. We are concerned in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING with the progress and development of Nursing.

The outstanding event is the passing in 1919, after an intensive struggle lasting over thirty years, of the Nurses' Registration Acts for England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

It was with emotion that the nursing pioneers, privileged to be present in the House of Lords on December 23rd of that year, heard the Royal Assent given to the three Nurses' Registration Bills, in the quaint old Norman French words "*Le Roi le veut*" (The King wills it).

Nursing was thus, by the will of King George V, constituted a recognised profession in the United Kingdom; and if evidence is needed of the prestige at present attained by this recognition, it may be found in the fact that the King's niece, H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught, has passed through the prescribed curriculum and that her name is inscribed in the State Register of Nurses.

Under the Nursing Acts, Governing Bodies have been established, authorised to define standards of Nursing Education, to enter the names of those who have attained them, and who produce the necessary professional and personal credentials on the State Registers of Nurses, and to exercise disciplinary powers. On these Councils the majority of the members are Registered Nurses who are the direct representatives of the Nurses themselves.

In 1922 the recognition of Southern Ireland as a Free State was followed by the establishment of the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland.

The Queen has, in common with the King, always taken a deep interest in the work of Trained Nurses demonstrated by her support as President of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service and of the Army Nursing Board. Her Majesty is also Patron of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, and has graciously extended her patronage to the College of Nursing. Princesses of the Royal House have followed Her Majesty's example, and the Princess Royal is President of Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service and of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association, and H.R.H. the Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N., is President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, the first Association of Trained Nurses to be granted a Royal Charter.

During the period of the Great War, 1914—1918, the Nursing World stood at attention ready to serve when and wherever needed at home and abroad. Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval and Military Nursing Services, with their Reserves, rendered invaluable service, and the new Territorial Force (now Territorial Army) Nursing Service, mobilised immediately on the outbreak of war, responded to the call to staff and prepare as hospitals the 23 selected buildings in different parts of the country, providing a fine example of organised efficiency, the hospitals being quickly filled with wounded from the seat of war. Later many of its members also gave fine service in hospitals abroad.

The Army Nursing Services of Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand all brought much appreciated help, to care for the sick and wounded of their own soldiers. The work of these Services was beyond praise, and many of their members were faithful unto death. The British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England also did good service, their activities being many-sided.

Great progress has been made during the last twenty-five years in the organisation of nurses; the National



Van Dyk.

HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V.

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