

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

### "IMMORTALITY CALENDAR."

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED NURSES' ASSOCIATION,  
INCORPORATED.  
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,  
*President, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL  
OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.*

DEAR MRS. FENWICK,—I wish to send you thanks for the beautiful "Immortality Calendar" for 1942—which although it came to hand after the New Year was well aired, I was very happy to receive.

I trust my greetings reached you safely; in these days when transit is so uncertain, one is never sure that correspondence will reach its destination.

As you know the war has come to our door now, and we have lots of added duties and anxieties, but we do not forget you all in Great Britain who have borne the anxiety and strain for so long, and we are proud to be able to help in the great fight for freedom, even though the price is so great.

I trust you are well in spite of all the trials and difficulties of the present time.

With greetings and regards to our older sister Organisation and especially to the President.

I am, Yours faithfully,  
E. J. YOUNG, *President.*

No Dominion is held in greater affection in Britain than New Zealand, and we have of course realised that the treachery of Japan has brought it into close touch with the war.

The valiant men and women sent to help us at home on the various battle fronts have won unqualified admiration and gratitude for their valour and devotion to duty.

### WHY I WISHED TO TRAIN AS A NURSE.

How advantageous it is to a Training School for Nurses that the Matron should be an educationalist is not always realised by the Committee which selects her. House-keeping looms as ever as of paramount importance in many smaller hospitals, and sometimes we think these managers have moved but little with the times.

Well do we remember calling on the Matron of the General Hospital, Nottingham, in the year 1878, and being directed by the porter, "You'll find her in the basement in the blankets—second door to right."

And there we did find her.

In those days there was no Nursing School attached to the hospital, and little of the Matron's time was occupied in the wards in association with nurses and patients. Indeed it would appear she was zealously excluded by the medical staff from "such interference!"

Here may we record a word of gratitude to this amiable lady when as a Probationer at the Children's Hospital across the road, we often took tea with her and preached sedition—or rather the Gospel of Miss Nightingale who had claimed even then that Matron must be the superintendent of nursing and not merely the dispenser of blankets!

Indeed, in those days Nursing Schools as we realise them to-day did not exist. We were reminded of these facts when we received the following essay from the Matron of the Borough Hospital at Ipswich, who in addition to being a highly qualified Registered Nurse also holds the Diploma in Nursing of the University of London.

In this institution at the end of every course in a three weeks' Preliminary School, a test paper is set, and recently in reply to the question, "Why do you want to take up Nursing, and what do you think are the essential qualifications for a Nurse?" a young student nurse, aged eighteen, submitted the following reply, under the heading,

### "WHY I WISH TO TRAIN AS A NURSE."

By DELPHINE E. LACCOHEE.

I wish to train as a Nurse because nursing has always interested me. Why it has interested me I do not really know, except perhaps it is because there is so much help which can be given to everyone by knowing just what to do and how to do it, when they are unable to look after themselves. By helping to give a person good health or by saving him from losing the use of one of his limbs, or some part of the body, one is not only helping him to be happier and healthier but helping all those with whom he is connected.

To mention that one wishes to be a nurse is usually a certain call for such remarks as, "It is such a hard job, etc." Any work is hard if one's whole heart is not in it, and if at times the work does not seem to be going just right, a quick look round the ward, a little thought about the progress of each case, is sufficient reward for any hardness or tiredness one may feel.

It is no good taking up nursing just for the sake of being a nurse and wearing a nurse's uniform. When I said I wanted to be a nurse, I was promptly told I should not be able to "stick" hard work and unpleasant little jobs. I was confident I could and was determined to try; so far, I have not found the work really hard, though when I come off duty I am quite ready for a good rest. Any aching feet, which I, as a very new Probationer have certainly experienced, are quite rewarded by a quick run through the day's work, and the memory of certain grateful looks and words from the patients.

I am certainly going to try very hard to be successful with my nursing; if I fail I shall be terribly disappointed, but if I succeed, I shall always try to remember that a nurse is not just a person who is capable of dressing a wound or looking after a patient, but someone who besides being capable of doing this is someone in whom the patient can confide, someone who is a friend to all who need a friend.

The essential quality for a person wishing to enter the nursing profession is enthusiasm and interest in the work which she is about to take up.

A nurse must be strong in body, very healthy, and not afraid of sickness. She must be thoughtful and understanding and have a real interest in each one of her patients. She must be willing to learn and must not mind being told when and how to do anything.

A nurse must be able to work quickly and quietly, and take great care to do any work she is given, however small, really thoroughly.

She must be really thoughtful and remember that the majority of people with whom she will come in contact will be nervous and probably a little shy. She must remember that, although to her a new patient might be just another patient, he is someone who will be very sensitive to the new surroundings in which he finds himself.

We have great pleasure in publishing this Essay—as it appears to us to express just the vital reasons which should inspire Student Nurses in the choice of a profession which exacts the highest moral and mental qualities if they are to become worthy members of it. We wonder if the Student Nurses' Association has defined its Ethical Code? If not this essay might be taken into consideration.

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