

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
THE NURSING RECORD

EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

No. 2118. Vol. 93.

JANUARY, 1945.

Price Sevenpence.

## EDITORIAL.

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS. A GREAT NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

In spite of War, very welcome Christmas and New Year's greetings have come through to the Editor of this JOURNAL, and in returning thanks pride of place must be accorded to our colleagues in South Africa, because they have promoted and helped to place on the Statute Book of that great Dominion an Act of Parliament, the Nursing Act, which cannot fail to benefit the whole community, the evolution of which we have watched with very sincere interest and good will, to which we can now add warm congratulations. A moving spirit in this political evolution has been Miss B. G. Alexander, O.B.E., R.R.C., of Johannesburg, whose greeting we publish with pleasure.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS  
FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

17th November, 1944.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

This conveys to you my cordial Greetings and very best wishes. This has been a historic year for the nurses in this country. The Nursing Act is now on the Statute Book and the first Nursing Council was inaugurated at Pretoria last week, so now the nurses have control of all their own affairs, and this is certainly a milestone in our nursing history.

With my best wishes for a quiet and peaceful Christmas, and many blessings in the future. We are all hoping and praying for peace.

Yours,

B. J. ALEXANDER.

*God Bless Thy Year, giving you  
Strength for the Strife,  
Peace for the Path Way,  
Wisdom for the Work,  
Friends for the Fireside,  
Love to the last.*

Many more kind letters have come from South Africa and with them the news sent by Miss Sybil A. Marwick, of Port Elizabeth, that Miss C. A. Nothard, Matron-in-Chief, S.A. Military Nursing Section, Pretoria, has been appointed President of the South African Nursing Council under the new Nursing Act. Her colleagues in Great Britain offer her sincere congratulations and

health and strength to perform the onerous duties the honour entails.

From Canada, New Zealand, Australia and India, and the United States of America come lovely cards, good wishes and gifts, sweets, cakes, plum pudding, and tea, all greatly appreciated in this land of coupons, and it goes without saying that these gifts are of the highest quality and have been thoroughly enjoyed, and that all the good wishes are warmly reciprocated.

### EUROPE WEEPS.

To turn to Europe—how sad the picture! In Great Britain, in spite of bombs and blast, its wonderful people make the best of tragic conditions. Many homes are shrouded in mourning, the nearest and dearest in foreign graves. Father and dear boys are offering their lives for the country and the liberty they love. And our Nurses, what of them? They are working devotedly on every front, on ships and in planes, and in home hospitals under strain and stress, many realising the privilege of "doing my bit," or realising that when Peace is proclaimed the sick and the wounded will still need medical and nursing service.

In the old days Europe sent us such inspiring letters of good will—this year, alas! nothing but silence. We wonder how many of these dear friends will come forth from purgatory, when the enemies of mankind meet the punishment they deserve, without which Justice will fail of its purpose.

### THE NEW YEAR 1945.

Anyway, the Nursing Profession in every land must unite, and this can be done through the International Council of Nurses. When we remember the inspiration generated nearly all over the world by the leaders of this movement it is inevitable that when the Nursing Profession throughout the world has liberty of action, leaders will be forthcoming in the future as they were in the past.

Let us remember:—

"The essential idea for which the International Council of Nurses stands is self-government of nurses in their associations, with the aim of raising ever higher the standards of education and professional ethics, public usefulness, and civic spirit of their members. The International Council of Nurses does not stand for a narrow professionalism but for the full development of the human being and citizen in every nurse, which shall best enable her to bring her professional knowledge and skill to the many-sided service that modern society demands of her."

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