

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
THE NURSING RECORD

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No. 2128. Vol. 93.

NOVEMBER, 1945.

Price Sevenpence.

## EDITORIAL.

### TAKE THIS SPEECH TO HEART.

On October 20th, Mr. Churchill, on receiving the honorary Freedom of his constituency, said: "I freely avow to you, my friends, that it was not without a pang that I found myself dismissed at the General Election, from the honourable task of guiding our country.

"I had hoped that the position I had gained in the world, the experience and knowledge which I had acquired, and the links which had been forged in the fires of war with other lands and leaders might have been of service in this critical time of transition, and in the fateful work of trying to revive the life and glory of Europe within the circle of assured world peace.

"I had looked forward also to throwing all my personal strength and that of my friends and colleagues into the demobilisation of the Forces, into the rebuilding of our homes, into the switch-over of our industries to peace-time production, and into the liberation of British genius and energy from the long thralldom of war conditions.

### IF RIFT BECAME GULF.

"I shall not waste your time or my own with vain repinings, but, on the contrary, you may be sure that I shall devote myself unwearingly to whatever duties may come my way and strive always to preserve those causes of British splendour and human freedom in which we have all been so closely bound together in the great days that are past.

"I share with many people deep anxiety about the future, and it seems to me that these next few years may well decide our own place in the world. It is a place which, if once lost might never be regained. The break-up of the famous Coalition Government has led inevitably to a division of our people into opposing parties such as we have not seen since the days before the first great world war. It would indeed be grievous if the rift between us deepened and widened until it became a gulf, while all the time the problems and dangers which beset us would tax to the full our united fraternal strength.

"These are serious thoughts for an occasion of rejoicing, and I will not end without reaffirming my invincible belief that the future of Britain and of the vast Commonwealth and Empire around her is in our own hands, and that the qualities which have carried our island race to the vanguard of mankind, will not desert us now."

### "WE DID NOT FLINCH, WE DID NOT FAIL."

Speaking to the boys of his old school, Harrow, Mr. Churchill said:—

"This is a time when the voice of youth will be welcomed in the world. We have come out of this struggle in many ways impoverished and with many burdens and the future is by no means clear. Always remember you are citizens of a country which holds its own in the very foremost ranks of the nations of the world and is entitled to receive from all of them a tribute of respect, because it was on our country that the whole brunt of the burden fell for more than a year of saving civilisation and the world. We did not flinch, we did not fail."

### SALT OF THE EARTH.

We always open and study *Una*, the Journal of the Royal Victorian College of Nursing, Melbourne, and are cheered by its progressive professional tone. The following little article is typical of its inspiration:—

"To trainees who have graduated recently we offer our pleased congratulations and good wishes, hoping too that they each understand the importance of becoming financial members of the R.V.C.N. Moreover, continuing to be such important cogs in nursing machinery.

"The trained nurse in her work touches on the very root and fabric of Life, not only in the material aspect but very much on the spiritual side. She must have what the Scriptures urge us to have—salt in ourselves.

"She is, as no other worker has the privilege to be, the salt of the earth. We know this mineral is an essential of diet, a preservative of food, an antiseptic, a valuable aid in saving life and assisting it to continue, a component part of the blood.

"A wise old medical man, teaching his students, once said if he were restricted to only one ingredient with which to treat his patients he would unhesitatingly choose salt, so many were its uses and its merits.

"And the good nurse is an essential and a preserver. She must have something no one else is called upon in so high a degree to possess. The influence of the nurse who has this salt in herself goes far beyond the limits of her particular duty, and the work of those who have or cultivate this 'salt' is capable of achieving wonders in this troubled world to-day. All the tiny cogs of the great machine of Life must work in unison. Our leaders are helpless otherwise.

"And so every confidence goes out to the new group of young women who follow the hard way of hundreds of other Australian nurses."

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