

OWN AND EDIT YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL.

Great Britain set the example which has wisely been followed by the U.S.A., and all the National Associations of Nurses, that each National Nursing Association should *own* and edit its own professional organ. Thus professional opinion can be expressed without lay pressure.

How wise this policy is, can be proved by the growth of professional power in each country, and the wonderful progress of such publications. Alas! Great Britain is the only country which has failed to appreciate the principle, and the only country in which de-grading of nursing standards has been ruthlessly applied by an ignorant Parliament through lay autocracy.

Let us hope a more enlightened Government may in the future realise the value of self-government for women's professions.

Each month we welcome with pleasure the Nursing Journals from U.S.A., and the Dominions, and only wish we had time to study them in detail.

The Editors have our special admiration, and we seem to know them intimately, although we may never have met.

In the April issue of the *South African Nursing Journal*, we note:—

"FAREWELL TO THE EDITOR"

"On the evening of March the 19th the Metropolitan Hall, Cape Town, was pleasantly laid out in party style and a happy company foregathered there to do honour to Mrs. H. C. Horwood, retiring Editor of the *S.A. Nursing Journal*. No trouble had been spared in the preparation. Mrs. Ball with Mr. Ball and her other helpers are to be congratulated on the results of their efforts. Flowers and refreshments were everything that could be desired, and a well-arranged musical programme further enhanced the delights of the evening. This celebration had been arranged to coincide with the arrival in Cape Town of the members of the newly formed Nursing Council and Board of the Nurses' Association. Many of the delegates were present and this meant many happy greetings as old friends from different parts of the Union met again.

"Miss McLarty, our General President, looking as charming as ever, in a short speech paid tribute to Mrs. Horwood's many activities over the years in the interests of the profession, and in finishing presented Mrs. Horwood with a cheque from the members of the Association. Two charming little girls, the youngest guests of the evening, then presented her with a beautiful basket of gladioli which was the envy of all present.

"Mrs. Horwood, in thanking the Board for the wonderful send-off she was receiving, said that it was the first time in the history of the Association that any officer on retiring had been so honoured by the Board and the fact that all members were present would make it always a very treasured memory. She said to the Association not 'Farewell' but 'Fare you well.'"

We have often been invited to form a class for Nurse Journalists, if only time was not so fleeting it might be done.

BREAD AND "MARG."

The information which has appeared in this journal recently about the deprivations and suffering of old nurses beyond work has aroused some strong feeling of sympathy and we sincerely hope action will be taken to make such suffering impossible.

For the following case we can vouch. The Sister, whom we have known for fifty years, is now nearly 80, and has been recently in hospital. Although she is not a member her circumstances when brought to the notice of the Council of the British College of Nurses Ltd., naturally commanded its sympathy and a grant of 10s. through the Ethel Mary Fletcher Benevolent Fund was granted weekly.

The following report of devotion to national nursing is personally known to us.

This very clever Sister nursed through the Greco-Turkish War in Greece in 1897, especially devoting her skill to the wounded young soldiers of the Cipriani Legion (Italians) at the British hospital at Chalkis. Well do we remember the sad wail of "*dura-dura*" of one suffering boy. Sister was on the spot, she had ready in a few minutes another bed piled up with soft cushions and blankets. In a trice she had picked up the young soldier, carried him across the ward, placed him in the downy bed. A woman never at a loss. She was awarded the Greek Red Cross at the end of the war. Later she worked arduously through the Boer War, and gave equal service to our country in the Great War, 1914, and what has been her reward? Listen, till we tell you. This patriotic Sister is living in what is supposed to be a Convalescent Home for old ladies, for which she pays 30s. a week. She writes: "It is anything but a home. There are six sleeping in one room, not any larger than an ordinary dining room; no conveniences. The meals consist of bread and margarine, except dinner, when we get stew of potatoes and carrots at 1 p.m."

This Sister writes: "I am still trying to get a furnished room with attendance—they are very difficult to get just now."

And this highly-skilled and devoted nurse worked for our country for years. What about it?

Compare her environment and diet with that we are providing for the constitutional murderers, the German prisoners of war, comfortably imprisoned in Great Britain, and if it does not arouse a sense of indignation it surely ought to do so, and as the salaries and emoluments of many nurses are adequate—and food amply sufficient—we hope some may spare a little gift for their colleague, so that "bread and marg, and meatless vegetable stew" may not continue to be her starvation diet. Any little gifts sent to the Editor of this journal will be received with thanks and forwarded at once to appease the hunger of the colleague for whom we plead.

Address: THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

The decision to close the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross and St. John Fund, on 30th June, does not affect this year's flag days. The anticipated proceeds of the collection on the flag day in London and those in the provinces have been taken into account for financing the work of the war.

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