

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
THE NURSING RECORD

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No. 2125. Vol. 93.

AUGUST, 1945.

Price Sevenpence.

## EDITORIAL.

To the

*Right Hon. Winston Spencer Churchill, C.H., M.P.*

### THE PILOT THAT WEATHERED THE STORM.

Thousands of Registered Nurses with the deepest sense of gratitude and loyal devotion, who realise that they owe to Mr. Winston Spencer Churchill, late Premier and Minister of Defence, the great victory in war in Europe, the continued existence of Great Britain and the Empire, and indeed the stability of the world, wish to convey to him their love and loyalty.

No words can express their admiration of, and devotion to, the man of genius to whom the whole world owes its hope of human life worthy of existence. It is the proud privilege of the Editor of this journal to place on record this quite inadequate expression of gratitude to the Pilot that weathered the Storm.

“If hushed the loud whirlwind that ruffled the deep,  
The sky, if no longer loud tempests deform;  
When our perils are past, shall our gratitude sleep?  
No! Here's to the Pilot that Weathered the Storm.

At the footstool of power let flattery fawn,  
Let faction her idols extol to the skies;  
To virtue, in humble retirement withdrawn,  
Unblamed may the tribute of gratitude rise.

And shall not his memory to Britain be dear,  
Whose example with envy all nations behold,  
A statesman unbiased by interest or fear,  
By power uncorrupted, untainted by gold?

Who, when terror and doubt through the Universe  
reigned,

While rapine and treason their standards unfurled,  
The heart and the hopes of his country maintained,  
And one kingdom preserved midst the wreck of the  
world.

\* \* \*

O! take, then, for dangers by wisdom repelled,  
For evils by courage and constancy braved.  
O, take for a throne by thy counsels upheld,  
The thanks of a people thy firmness has saved.”

*George Canning.*

## THIS SERFDOM.

By G. M. H.

Very recently I have returned to England, after a short sojourn in Northern Ireland, and now I am again becoming accustomed to the irritating and futile efforts of the various Ministries to run the affairs of individual Hospitals, and to control the lives of Nurses generally. Sadly, yet truly one must admit a state of chaos, bordering on collapse, supervening to-day.

Professional independence and loyalty amongst colleagues have been relegated to those mysterious regions which have swallowed up our potential future Registered Nurses; and some persons (not a few in high places), have joined in the mad scrum for notoriety and power, to the detriment of their profession, and to the everlasting hurt and degradation of their junior associates.

Matrons to-day are faced with an almost impossible task. Our patients must be nursed. We know that. But by whom? The right type of well-bred, well-educated and intelligent girl seems to have suddenly become extinct. There must be some reason for this sudden and complete collapse, and as we are fortunate in knowing the reason, perhaps the cure could speedily be put into effect.

The cause of all our troubles is total lack of freedom, and this freedom must be restored to us before our profession is a sorry wreck. The Nursing Profession must be delivered from the bonds of serfdom; its affairs must be rescued from the tentacles spreading out from the Ministries of Health and Labour, and once again Nurses must be free to choose where they will train, and where they will work. Matrons must regain their old privileges, and have the right to choose their own Staff according to the dictates of conscience and reason. They must be delivered from the filling in of endless forms, which in many cases relate to persons not in any way fitted to become Nurses! They must be allowed to introduce and maintain dignified discipline into the lives of Hospital Staffs.

It has been truly stated that once a commodity becomes “controlled,” it disappears “under the counter,” to be doled out to a favoured few. Since Nurses have become “controlled” they have disappeared from general circulation, and to reinstate them into currency again, the controls must go. It is well known that wily young Student Nurses, who are determined to live their own lives, and not be dictated to from the Ministry of Labour, are getting booked up in the 2nd year of their training for Midwifery, or other specialised training, which is more to their personal taste, and who will blame them?

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