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## EDITORIAL.

### WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AMERICAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

We have on more than one occasion warmly commended the perspicacity and professional conscience which animated Miss Sophia Palmer, the first Editor of the *American Journal of Nursing*, when she demanded that American nurses should own and control their own professional journal. This policy which was adopted resulted in the *American Journal of Nursing* becoming the first professional nursing journal in the world.

It was, therefore, with the sincerest appreciation that upon receiving the January issue of the *American Journal of Nursing*, its extension in size and volume was evident, and we offer warm congratulations from THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING upon this well-deserved success.

Turning to the editorial pages, which cover six columns, the following subjects are discussed: "The Atomic Age—and Nursing," "Registrars tell Us," and "More about the Journal."

#### "THE ATOMIC AGE—AND NURSING."

"We cannot know how future historians will name the era which came to an end in 1945. We know that we have entered the Atomic Age and that power which staggers the imagination can be made available for colossal destruction. Physicists tell us that it can also be harnessed for constructive purposes. The impact of the bombing of Hiroshima (August 6, 1945) on the minds of thoughtful men produced no more vivid argument for a world government stronger than that provided by the Charter of the United Nations Organisation than Norman Cousins's 'Modern Man is Obsolete.' This has occurred because he has exalted change in everything but himself. He has leaped centuries ahead in investing a new world but he has not prepared himself to live in that world. . . . While he is willing to mobilise all his scientific and intellectual energies for purposes of death, he is unwilling to undertake any comparable mobilisation for purposes of life. . . . No amount of tinkering with his institutions will be sufficient to insure his survival unless he can make the necessary adjustments in his own relationship to the world and to society.

"In short, according to this writer, nothing less than a world government will suffice to save civilisation in the Atomic Age.

"Although a few American nurses have been active participants in civic affairs, with the name of Lillian D. Wald leading all the rest, the failure of the profession

as a whole to assume its fair share of such responsibilities is believed, by some observers, to be evidence of serious weakness. An important step in the right direction was taken by Katharine Densford when, as president, she represented the A.N.A. at the inaugural meeting of the United Nations' Organisation at San Francisco.

"The quality of our international relationships has long been a matter of pride. The deep emotion of nurses who had been isolated by the war, when communication was re-established, will be a powerful stimulant to the development of new relationships through the International Council of Nurses which will meet in this country in 1947. As Sister Bergljot Larsson of Norway has written:—

"We belong to a profession which has a great part to play—may we be able to be one of the strong links in the rebuilding of welfare and peace. God give us wisdom and heavenly love that the whole and the sick and the weak and the strong may praise Him in all eternity. We must pray to get love enough. *Love* is the only power which can give us strength to play our part in the future work.

"And our own prophetic elder statesman, Annie W. Goodrich, has recently reminded us that 'Nursing must be one of mankind's integrating forces and yet must continue to be a personal service to the sick.' Nursing must be a constructive force in the Atomic Age."

#### "REGISTRARS TELL US."

The second Editorial deals with the serious shortage of nurses in the United States. We know from other sources that a class of nurse termed "Practical Nurse," who is not trained to the high standard required for Registration, has been in use for some time in the United States, and that this title is not approved by many, as they consider, of course, that a Registered Nurse is not of use unless she is practical.

"Forty-nine of the 50 registrars who received our telegraphed enquiries replied promptly.

"Hospital shortages, as we reported last month, are extremely serious. One registrar reports 1,000 vacancies in the hospitals of her city and that over 1,100 calls for private duty nurses were unfulfilled in November. One thoughtful correspondent included with the requested information, 'the housing shortage is acute.' While we were in the midst of tabulating the data from the 49 other cities, the Mayor of New York announced that the 28 hospitals under the city's jurisdiction have only 2,700 of their pre-war quota of 6,200 nurses. He is asking for a large appropriation to increase salaries.

"Illness does not subside as the sun goes down—it continues around the clock. That is an unalterable

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