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EDITORIAL.

SIXTY YEARS OF UNSWERVING SERVICE TO THE NURSING PROFESSION

This issue marks the Diamond Jubilee of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which began its career in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick at No. 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, in the year of grace 1888.

So it was, in those peaceful luxurious days, that the Journal first made known the intention of its young, elegant and talented founder and first Editor to achieve the emancipation of Nurses.

Through its columns could be discerned the dawn of a new era quite startling in the Nursing World—the determination of this dynamic personality, whose unswerving advocacy in this cause knew of no defeat, was to exercise her pioneer efforts for all that concerned the professional welfare and advancement of Trained Nurses.

Let us now turn back its pages to Thursday, April 5th, 1888, and peruse in this issue its first inspiring address to the Nursing Profession:—

“We issue our first number in a thoroughly hopeful spirit, for we fully believe that the time has now arrived when a most important body can with advantage be represented by having as its advocate a journal which shall actively and independently promulgate its general views. Hitherto, the Nursing Profession—and by this we mean the *nurses themselves* and all those associated with nursing work—has been almost entirely without any *recognised* medium for making its requirements known; and has never had the efficient means of inter-communication, which is so essential for the proper consolidation of a large and increasingly important body. True there are existing publications which have devoted some little attention to nursing matters, and have, as far as their limited space and want of *actual*

touch with nurses permitted them, endeavoured to do the best they could. But even this best is unsatisfactory and inefficient; and in making these assertions we feel assured that we are only expressing the sentiments of the fifteen thousand nurses who are working amongst us.

Our chief objects are:—

(1) To federate, as it were, the many divisible bodies of nurses scattered throughout the country, bringing all these under one chief and recognised system to enable

nurses to regard with proper satisfaction their status and position; in this, we have received many encouraging offers of assistance.

(2) To deal with matters relating to the Nursing Profession, more especially those concerning its advancement.

(3) To protect the general interests of nurses, and to promote their well-being and improvement.

(4) To introduce opinion and criticism upon all subjects associated with nursing work.

(5) To offer active assistance in the promotion and support of any movement calculated to benefit the Nursing Profession.

In the supply of literary matter we shall always endeavour to introduce that which shall be original, chatty, instructive, and attractive; and, as far as it lies in our power, we shall hope to make *The Record* a journal for nurses, *written by nurses*, leaving ourselves open at all times to act upon any suggestion—herewith cordially invited

—which may be considered to enhance its usefulness.”

The provision of a free voice for Nurses in the Press and the editing of the first professional organ of Nursing in the world is a priceless heritage for which generations of Nurses will be increasingly zealous to preserve.

So this Journal has kept a faithful record over the years of the warnings, so prophetic, of this voice crying in the wilderness, ever beseeching Nurses to take courage and resist patronage in any form inimical to their professional independence and progress. A.S.B.



ETHEL GORDON FENWICK, THE PIONEER

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)