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EDITORIAL COMMENT

With this, the Christmas issue, we wish our readers a happy holiday season. While we cannot but be thankful for the continued peace and prosperity of our own country, our joy will necessarily be over-shadowed by the warring conditions which exist in so great a part of the civilized world. Particularly to the women of our own profession in these countries, we extend our greetings and sympathy.

SPECIAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE ROBB MEMORIAL FUND

The committee of the Isabel Hampton Robb Memorial Fund has wisely decided to take prompt and energetic measures to complete without further delay the Fund which five years ago it undertook to establish on behalf of the nursing profession of the country. By the time this issue reaches our readers, circulars and appeals will have been sent forth by the committee, intended to reach into every hospital and training school and into all of the associations of nurses, great and small, through which the profession is represented. We bespeak from nurses everywhere, pupils and graduates, a cordial and hearty response to the appeal of the committee, and urge them to that kind of active and effective coöperation which nurses know so well how to give. The cause is one to which we have already and gladly pledged our loyalty.

The memory of her whom we would honor is deeply enshrined in our hearts; her work is a fresh and living influence in our training schools. Our associations, one and all, owe their inception and first impetus to her leadership, and their growth bears witness to all those early years of devoted effort which she gave for them. Our indebtedness to her is something that cannot now be measured, for as yet we are too close to her work to see it in its fulness. No better way could have been devised, however, of showing how truly we comprehend its

value and its significance than through this great educational Foundation.

The importance of the work which the Fund is designed to carry on stands out more and more distinctly as the years pass, and the need for improvement in the educational aspects of our work manifests itself in more directions and to a larger number of people. It is unquestionable that the work which nurses are doing is growing in importance all over the world. The demand is increasing for nurses capable of teaching in an effective way the needful things which people are waiting to learn. The public is asking this, public schools are requiring it, and insisting upon having nurses who can teach. Medical and sanitary knowledge is being carried over to the people, to mothers, children, families, more largely and more fruitfully through nurses, than through all the other sources put together. But no nurse can teach well what she does not fully understand. She must be in command of her subject and of the best methods of teaching if she is to make it live in the homes and habits of others. Nurses themselves are recognizing the inadequacy of their preparation for the newer things which are more and more being demanded of them, not only in the work of hospitals but in all of the varying departments of public health activities. As colleges and special schools are providing facilities for further preparation, nurses are making inquiry in regard to scholarships and other means of obtaining such advantages as are being offered. During the past three years, twelve nurses have been awarded Robb Fund scholarships, thus being aided in obtaining one year of special preparation for advanced administrative work, although the present income of the Fund is but a small fraction of what it eventually will be.

The amount of the Fund at the present time is something over \$15,000, an average of \$3,000 a year for the five years of its growth; the Fund will be completed when it has reached the sum of \$50,000. The development of this Fund should be distinctly the interest of every nurse in the country who is ambitious to have her profession reach its highest development and of every hospital which desires to have its nursing more intelligently and efficiently done through the better trained teachers which these scholarships help to create. The Fund is a symbol of the ideals for which we are striving; it points the direction toward which we are constantly and steadily moving. The whole trend of civilization is for that moral and spiritual uplift which has for its object the making the world a better place for those who are to follow. The object of this great educational Fund is that the nurses who are to come after us shall have at their command opportunities and facilities which those of today have largely been denied.

The appeals for this Fund in the past have been made principally to the affiliated organizations of the American Nurses' Association and to individual nurses; the appeal which is now being issued is to all nurses everywhere and more especially to the pupils in training, who are being urged to contribute by classes in such amounts as they can afford, no sum too small and no amount too large. The aim of the committee is to make one strong effort to complete the sum of \$50,000 and then to close the Fund for all time. The amount to be raised, \$35,000, may seem a large one, but when we remember that there are 26,000 members in the American Nurses' Association and approximately 30,000 pupils in our schools, it becomes a perfectly reasonable and possible task, provided the appeal can be made to reach, through the superintendents of the schools and the officers of the associations, the rank and file of our membership. The task is a glorious one. Let us bend ourselves to its accomplishment, realizing fully that our Fund can be completed if every nurse will but give what she can, no matter how little.

EDITH CAVELL—FURTHER INFORMATION

Some of our subscribers were doubtless disappointed at the delay in the receipt of their November JOURNAL, but this was due to our holding up the printing of the magazine to insert Miss Scovil's account of Edith Cavell. Since the publication of that article, we have learned from the *British Journal of Nursing*, of October 23, something more of Miss Cavell's professional life than Miss Scovil was able to obtain at the time of the preparation of her paper.

Miss Cavell was trained at the great London Hospital, entering this school in 1896, doing five years of private nursing and holding two important executive positions in English hospitals, before she was appointed, something more than eight years ago, matron of the new nursing school in Belgium, the *École Belge d'Infirmières Diplômées*. It will be remembered by some of our readers that she attended the International Council of Nurses in London in 1909 and presented a paper on Nursing in Belgium. Concerning her work there, the *British Journal of Nursing* states:

In 1909 this school, founded to improve the training of nurses, to open a new career to Belgian girls, and to train new aids to the cause of science, had 13 pupils, for whom a varied and practical three years' curriculum had been arranged. By 1912 it had passed the experimental stage, and had 32 pupils training in four different hospitals, each with its trained matron, and a trained nurse in each ward. Miss Cavell still held the position of matron of the school when the war broke out. A Red Cross ambulance was immediately started by the Committee, who equipped a number of beds in neighboring houses for the wounded