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EDITORIAL.

IN recent numbers of this Journal we have pointed out the extreme probability that a Preliminary Examination will be instituted, sooner or later, which all women desirous of being trained as Nurses will be required to pass, before they can commence their professional studies. A historical retrospect of the advance of Medical education led to the further conclusion that the Nursing Schools throughout the country must in time be organised upon one definite system, not, as at present, differing each one from every other in every conceivable way. What, then, are the uniform principles upon which they will work?

We have often pointed out the close analogies which exist in the education of Medical Students and Nurses, but now we reach an excellent example of the divergencies which also are found in this same matter. We have shown that only

a certain limited number of Medical Schools are "recognised," or, in other words, are permitted by the General Medical Council to admit and teach Students. For many reasons this restriction was long ago found to be absolutely necessary. Consequently, there are hundreds of Hospitals in the kingdom where lectures are never delivered, because there are no Students to listen to them, and these Institutions flourish, more or less exceedingly well, without these searchers after knowledge. But there is no Hospital, however small, which can continue without its complement of Nursing workers; and as, almost without exception, the finances of Hospitals are straitened, they must always have a certain number of Probationers at work learning their profession, and, therefore, receiving smaller remuneration than they could command were they fully trained. We are well aware, that from this fact arises a difficulty, which to timorous people has hitherto appeared insuperable, while it has even deterred ardent reformers from attempting to grapple with the question. How can such Hospitals be carried on without these small-salaried learners? it is said; and yet, how can a small Hospital sufficiently train and teach its students? But now that Legal Registration is within a measurable distance, it is useless and childish to postpone the consideration of the matter any longer.

As we have already proved, the constitution of the Nursing School is the cardinal point and foundation stone of any future scheme of education for Nurses. Let us, therefore, face the problem fairly, and, as is usual when this course is adopted, we venture to believe that the difficulties, hitherto believed to be insurmountable, will melt and vanish away. To make our argument more clear, let it be remembered that when Registration is enforced by law, no woman will be Registered who cannot satisfy the Council or Board, appointed by the State to control the matter, that she is a thoroughly efficient Nurse. In other words, she must prove that she has been

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