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Contents.

OUR ALBUM.—NURSE ETHEL, HEAD NURSE, THE HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE THROAT, GOLDEN SQUARE, W.	33
EDITORIAL	33
LECTURES TO NURSES ON ANTISEPTICS IN SURGERY.—III. BY E. STANMORE BISHOP, F.R.C.S. Eng.	35
THE BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION	39
A CHAT WITH PROBATIONERS. BY A. B. TYSON... ..	41
THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN. BY H.R.H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN	42
TESTING SIGHT FOR A PENNY	43
HOSPITAL INTELLIGENCE	44
EXTERIORS AND INTERIORS	46
WOMEN AND THEIR WORK	47
REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS	48
VACANT APPOINTMENTS, WANTED, &c.	48
COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY	48
NOTICES	48

EDITORIAL.

THE meeting of the General Council of the British Nurses' Association, which was held last Friday, will, unless we are greatly mistaken, prove to have been one of the most important gatherings of that body which has yet taken place. A decision was made which will probably have the most far-reaching consequences. The Draft Charter came before the meeting in the form in which, we presume, the Executive Committee had finally drawn it. According to the agenda, the General Council was summoned "to consider the Draft Charter;" but, according to our representative's report of the meeting, this document was not discussed at all, but instead of this, the crucial question was raised by the Chairman as to whether a Register of Nurses should not be formed before the Charter was sought for.

From the proceedings which followed, it is evident that the Executive Committee had—without permitting any inkling of its intentions to become known—quietly decided that this course would be the wisest to pursue. Dr. Bedford Fenwick put the arguments in favour of it into a nutshell. "We are going to Her Majesty the Queen in Council, for a Charter to incorporate an Association which exists, and is two thousand five hundred Members strong; but if we go at once we must ask Her Majesty also to give status to a Register which does not exist, even on paper. If the Register is opened, and we inscribe our two thousand five hundred names upon it, and show in black and white how we mean to carry on the scheme hereafter, and then Register, and Register, and Register till we have proved our case, we can on every ground apply for a Charter to grant legal powers not only to our Association, but also for our Register."

Mr. Brudenell Carter, with the graceful eloquence for which he is so well known, proposed a carefully-worded Resolution, authorising the Executive Committee at once to commence the

OUR ALBUM.



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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)