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EDITORIAL.

THE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

FOR nearly two years we have, in these columns, consistently, and with all our power, advocated a system of Registration of Trained Nurses. Again and again we have pointed out what Registration means, what its effects would be, and the urgent and increasing necessity for its adoption. The few objections advanced against its enforcement have been considered, criticised, and refuted. But we have confined ourselves to dealing with the question from a purely abstract point of view, and hesitated to advance in support of our arguments many well-known facts, and many others obtained by private information, because while these furnish conclusive proofs of the importance of Registration, they cast the gravest discredit upon certain great public institutions. With the gravest misgivings, therefore, we have watched the foolish and futile efforts which have been made to arouse the managers of Hospitals to take up a position of antagonism to this measure of public protection. Foolish beyond measure have

these endeavours been, because they were doomed from the first to be futile. They could not have been more futile had they even been less foolish. As it is, however, they have been watched with amazement, mingled with amusement, by those who did not see below the surface, and with no small consternation by those who realised what a huge amount of mud might perhaps be stirred up. We most deeply regret to learn that our forebodings may prove correct, and that there is a probability that public attention may shortly be called to facts which must shake confidence in great charitable institutions to an immeasurable degree. If this cannot be averted the entire blame will inevitably, and justly, be laid upon those who have wantonly dragged the matter into public controversy, but the pity of it is that incalculable harm will be done far beyond their little circle.

Of course the opposition to Registration has been futile. The history of every similar movement proved it must be so. All unprejudiced people could have foretold this before the British Nurses’ Association was founded with the primary object of carrying such a system into effect. And when the Association was found to have gathered round it at once such a strong phalanx of medical support, and to be headed by a daughter of our Queen, it became recognised that the Registration of Nurses was simply a question of time for the Association itself to decide. And every one must frankly admit that the manner in which the subject has been treated by the Association is deserving of the highest commendation. There has been no attempt to minimise the difficulties, or rashly undertake their solution.

The Association commenced its work at the meeting in St. George’s Hall, on February 13, 1888, so that it has been in existence for very nearly two years. During the whole of this time frequent meetings have been held, throughout the kingdom, for the discussion of the subject. Now the period of deliberation is evidently con-

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