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EDITORIAL.

AN INCORPORATED PROFESSION.—II.

WE mentioned in this column last week that there was a remarkable similarity between the powers conferred upon the Institute of Journalists by the Royal Charter recently bestowed upon that body, and those which are avowedly to be sought by the British Nurses' Association when it petitions the Privy Council in like manner to incorporate its members. We proved the close analogy which has hitherto existed between Nurses and Journalists, and then drew attention to the very significant fact that a Charter was granted to the Institute without opposition or delay. From which we draw the inference that if the British Nurses' Association considers it wise for other reasons to apply for its Charter, there is every apparent probability that it would be forthwith granted.

But how about the opposition which is threatened, perhaps some of our readers will say? We have repeatedly expressed our own belief that this only requires to be faced, for it to melt away. And from information most recently received we are convinced that, should it be even attempted,

it would actually strengthen the hands of the Association, and its assertion of the necessity for Nursing reform; because it would then afford an opportunity of making public, proofs of facts which have hitherto only taken the form of rumours in professional circles.

Our readers will remember that the scheme of the Association has been denounced as disadvantageous to Nurses, dangerous to the public, and degrading to Nursing. No one probably will accuse journalists of revolutionary purposes, although the British public is expected to believe that Nurses harbour such fell intentions. Let us, therefore, briefly show how precisely identical in many particulars are the powers conferred by the Crown upon the Journalists' Institute with those sought by the much-abused Nurses' Association. To recapitulate them, in their order:—

(A) gives "the Institute the right to test the qualifications of candidates for admission to its professional membership by examination in theory and in practice, or by any other actual and practical tests." The B.N.A. ordains that its Members must be either registered Medical men, or women who have been trained in Hospitals, and engaged for at least three years in attendance on the sick, or upon women in labour. The sole difference, therefore, here—although it is a very important one—is that the Institute—there being no recognised journalistic examination—is obliged perforce to initiate its own means of testing the knowledge and capacity of those who seek its membership. But the Association is able to accept, without further demur, the certificates or diplomas already gained from professional sources as full and satisfactory evidence of the qualifications of its candidates, and therefore needs to impose no additional test of its own devising.

(B) gives authority for "the promotion of whatever may tend to the elevation of the status and the improvement of the qualifications of all members of the journalistic profession." The bye-laws of the Association define one of its objects to be

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