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IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Those of our subscribers who wish to notify change of address must send such notification in order that it may reach the publishers NOT LATER than the Monday morning before publishing, otherwise the change cannot be made.

EDITORIAL.

JUST at present there has occurred that curious condition of affairs which is familiar to members of the Nursing world—a number of large Hospitals advertising at the same time for Matrons. Some years ago, when a similar number of vacancies simultaneously happened, it was said that an epidemic had apparently broken out amongst the heads of Nurse-training Schools. We have watched this peculiar cycle of vacancies for some years with increasing interest, for several reasons, some of which are not apparent on the surface. Chief amongst these are the lessons taught by the advertisements which call attention to the qualifications required from candidates for the posts. It is deeply interesting,

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for example, to observe, as we have frequently done, the gradual raising in the standard, not only of what is required from the Matron, but of what is accorded to her. On the other hand, it is equally important to observe from various—perhaps insignificant—statements how the stream is running with regard to the greater importance attached to the use of Hospitals as training schools for Nurses.

The days have evidently gone for ever when anyone, however aged, was held to be eligible for a Matronship, and, indeed, when the oldest candidate was frequently appointed on the cynical ground that she could not stay in the service of the Institution long enough to claim a pension. The average age of applicants is distinctly tending downward, and Committees seem to be every year more inclined to appoint as their Matrons ladies who are less than thirty-five years old rather than those who have passed that limit. We imagine, indeed, that we should be within the mark in saying that the average age of all the ladies appointed within the last two years, as Hospital Matrons, was markedly less than that which we have stated. This is undoubtedly full of significance, and once more proves the increasing importance played in the advance of Nursing by the advent into its ranks of so many educated women; because such workers are naturally not content to remain, for long, as Nurses, or even Ward Sisters, but desire to attain to the higher posts in the profession. This emulation in its turn has clearly had the effect of enormously increasing the competition for every vacancy; and this, again, has resulted in proving to Com-

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