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Editorial.

THE CREED OF ST. THOMAS.

IN another column, we print a Petition, which we understand has been issued by the authorities of St. Thomas's Hospital, in order to obtain signatures thereto, against the Petition of the Royal British Nurses' Association for a Royal Charter. The chief peculiarity of this document, which immediately strikes the reader, is its extraordinary feebleness, arising most probably from the stern necessity that, upon this occasion, the opposition are compelled to be more truthful than was considered necessary in semi-private communications to another Government Department.

But, putting aside the weakness of the argument, it is most interesting to observe the position which the opponents of the Association have now assumed. The Petition consists of four pages. The first is occupied in reciting extracts from the Charter, and the fourth in praying HER MAJESTY not to grant the Charter. There only remain, therefore, the intervening ten clauses to which any criticism can be applied.

The Petition may be described as the St. Thomas's Creed, because it almost entirely consists of expressions of belief; but reasons for the faith of the Petitioners are conspicuously absent. Clause IV. contains four separate and distinct beliefs, amongst which the most incontrovertible is that the Association would gain much position and dignity by the possession of a Royal Charter. But if the Petitioners dislike this, why have

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