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The Hospital World.

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Editorial.

HOSPITAL CERTIFICATES II.

THE weakness and the mistakes of the present system of Hospital Certificates being manifest, the practical problem to be solved is to discover the best method of obviating the evils and strengthening the advantages which are now existent. It must be granted, then, that the fact, that the smallest Cottage Hospital, after however short a period of training, can grant a Certificate, which, in the eyes of the public, is as complete and valuable a testimonial to the efficiency and character of its possessor as is the Certificate of the most important Training School in the kingdom, is totally subversive of the public utility of such documents. It is condemned as a crying evil in the case of the medical profession in this country, that there are some nineteen portals through which it can be entered—some nineteen Universities and Colleges, in fact, which dispense degrees or diplomas in Medicine. But in the case of Nursing there are perhaps more nearly ninety than nineteen Institutions, which, of their own free will, with as little hindrance as authority, bestow on Nurses the title of "trained," and if events continue to move at the present rate, we see no reason why in another ten years there should not be nine hundred Nurse-certifying bodies in the United Kingdom.

The first step will, therefore, clearly have to be an Act of Parliament, defining what bodies are to be empowered to grant Certificates of

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