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Editorial.

AN action of great importance to Nurses and Hospital authorities, which came before a court of law last week, is reported in another column, and demands, for various reasons, the careful consideration of everyone concerned in the well-being and repute of Nurse-training Schools. It emphasizes the absolute necessity of re-organizing the present system of Probationers' contracts, in order to eliminate the causes of friction which are now, to a constantly increasing extent, resulting in discord inside Hospitals, and detriment to their finances and reputation outside. We do not propose to enter into the merits of this particular dispute. The opinion expressed by the distinguished judge, and that of the jury, who tried the action, and the comments which have appeared in our contemporaries, are sufficient proof of the manner in which such a case is regarded by the public, and it should be remembered that sympathy given to the Nurse in such instances inevitably means sympathy withdrawn from the implicated Institution, and, probably, consequent disparagement of the work of all other Hospitals in popular estimation.

It would appear, then, to be necessary that Hospital authorities should—in view of the greatly altered conditions which have arisen in the Nursing world since the present ordinary form of agreement with Probationers came into force—make radical alterations in that contract. There are two sides to the bargain, and this must be based upon strict justice if it is to be satisfactory, and indeed creditable, to both parties. The Probationer enters the wards to acquire knowledge of the work of Nursing; the Hospital admits her to its service for that specific

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