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SPECIAL NOTICE.

All communications of a literary nature should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

Readers in the country who have difficulty in procuring THE NURSING RECORD from local booksellers, should send a Post Card to the Manager (to whom all communications respecting advertisements and the business department of the journal should be addressed), or order the journal to be sent to them each week by post from the Offices at 376, Strand, London, W.C. Prices (at Home) twelve months, 6s. 6d.; six months, 3s. 6d.; three months, 1s. 9d.; (Abroad) twelve months, 9s.

Editorial.

THE ABUSE OF HOSPITALS.—II.

UNFORTUNATELY, however, the conditions to which we alluded last week, have recently either been misunderstood, or are, in the minds of a large section of the community, losing their true significance. Coincidentally with a most deplorable falling off in the support which the benevolent are according to hospital finances, there seems to be arising a belief that it is the natural right of the public to receive free medical advice and treatment at these Institutions. The natural consequences of this have been not only that the quantity of out-patients at the Hospitals tends every year to increase, but that a considerable number of persons who are well able to pay for such necessary help, feel no shame in accepting it as a matter of charity. They seem to imagine that they can treat doctors as they would not treat any other professional or lay people, and while they would, perhaps, hesitate to accept a shilling, if offered to them by a passer-by in the street, they feel no compunction in taking that shilling in the form of drugs if the passer-by will only make a Hospital the medium of his contribution.

When a person, who is able to pay for what he wants, accepts medical assistance as a charitable dole, he is not only disgracing himself, he is not only doing a mean and contemptible action, but he is defrauding someone more deserving than himself, of important benefits. We feel the greater need for frank speaking upon this subject, seeing that so well-known and highly-esteemed a journal as the *Echo*, recently published a letter from "a reader," complaining that a gentleman, known to the writer, who had attempted to thus palm himself off as an

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