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NURSING PUPILS.

The Nursing Profession.

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The attention of our Readers is especially drawn to the Notice of Prizes which appears in our advertisement pages (xiv.) this week.

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ALTHOUGH from the earliest times the care of the sick and the suffering has been committed to the hands of women, it is only within recent years that there has arisen in this and in other countries an organised body of thoroughly-educated Nurses. There is still much to be done, and many improvements to be effected, before Nursing can claim to be similar either in its preliminary education, or in its subsequent work, to other skilled callings. Sufficient advance, however, has been already made to cause the profession of Nursing to be generally recognised as a distinct and highly educated vocation—as one demanding the best work of the best class of women—and the reforms which are now in rapid process of evolution will speedily increase both its status and its usefulness. Hitherto, unfortunately, it has been possible for any woman, however ignorant she might be of the duties required from an attendant upon the sick, to term herself a Nurse, and to seek and obtain work in that capacity in which, as a rule, she not only brought detriment to her patients in consequence of her want of skill, but, for the same reason, she reflected discredit upon the real members of the calling. Trained Nurses now possess a powerful organisation in the shape of the Royal British Nurses' Association—the only body of women, it is said, which has obtained incorporation by a Royal Charter. It is, probably, only a question of time when an Act of Parliament will be passed, still further defining and strengthening the profession of Nursing by compelling trained Nurses to become Registered, as it is termed, just as medical men and members of other professions

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