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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20th, 1894.

VOL. XIII.

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

Editorial.

NURSES' DIPLOMAS.

IN another column, our readers will find a copy of the letter on this subject which appeared in the *Lancet* on the 6th instant. The correspondent of our contemporary was, doubtless, surprised at "this sort of thing." But it has been well known for years past, in the Nursing world, that such bogus diplomas were easily obtainable. Although this Journal has strongly protested against this and similar methods of deception of the public, and of medical men, it is a strange fact that it has received so little support, comparatively, from those whose interests it has sought to defend, and only now is the public beginning to awaken to the great dangers to which the sick are exposed at the hands of ignorant women, falsely terming themselves "thoroughly trained Nurses."

In this particular instance, the Nurse had received a "diploma" after no Hospital training, but after attending a course of instruction in midwifery and diseases of women and children, and having been examined in these subjects by the donor of the diploma, who certified, on the strength of this scanty education, that she was able to undertake the duties of a Midwife or Sick Nurse. Surprise is expressed that this "sort of thing" should be possible, and we remember well that, some years ago, when the Royal British Nurses' Association stated that sham Nurses were able to obtain work as attendants upon the sick, more than one medical man wrote to one of our contemporaries and ridiculed the possibility of such an occurrence. It would be interesting to know whether the doctor who bestows these bogus diplomas was one


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