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SPECIAL NOTICE.

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

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Editorial.

THE SANCTITY OF CONTRACT.

DURING the past year, we have strongly expressed our views as to the manner in which Hospital Committees should regard the contracts which they conclude with their Probationers, and have asserted our belief that they should fulfil not only the letter but also the spirit of the terms under which such women enter into their service. Our attention has now been drawn to what may be regarded as the other side of this question—the measure in which contracts entered into by Nurses should be held to be binding upon them. There can be no two opinions upon this matter; because, having promised to perform certain conditions, Nurses are in all honour bound to fulfil them to the utmost. A special point upon which our advice has been sought is the following, and it is of wide application. A private Nurse was sent by an Institution to a patient, the employer signing a form of contract, in which he agreed to pay for the Nurse at the rate of two guineas a week, and sending with this agreement a cheque for the first week in advance. There can, we should imagine, be no possible question that the Institution, on its part, by accepting the cheque for a week's attendance, bound itself and the Nurse to give such service; while the employer on his side, by his signature of the form in question, bound himself also to fulfil his part of the bargain. The Nurse discovered that she was subject to certain inconveniences, and after the second day applied to the Institution with which she was connected, asking to be recalled.

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