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Editorial.

NURSING LEGISLATION.—VII.

SUCH Nursing Legislation as we have recently foreshadowed, would undoubtedly be of much advantage to medical men. The greater part which Nursing now plays in the treatment of disease or injury, as compared with its assistance in former times, is a direct measure of the greater importance which now exists that Nurses should be efficiently trained and educated. It is universally admitted that Nurses must now be something more than mere machines, and that they are expected to bring into the details of their daily work not only technical knowledge, but a sufficient acquaintance with the processes of disease to be able to understand any marked deviation which their patients may display from the normal course of the ailments from which they are suffering. In other words, Nurses are now required not merely to supplement the hands of the doctor in the administration of diet and medicine, but to be also his perceptive faculties during his absence from the patient's bedside—to observe correctly and to report accurately the precise symptoms which occur between his visits. The work, then, of the Nurse is more responsible, while at the same time it is more valuable to the doctor, than it was in former days. It must be always remembered that it is upon her trustworthiness, her knowledge and her experience that her usefulness to her superior officer depends.

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