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By **MARY HARRIS,**

Matron of the Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.

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Editorial.

STATE EXAMINATIONS.

DURING the last eleven years, we have been striving, in season and out of season, to impress upon the nursing profession, and upon the public, the urgent need and importance of reform. In our crusade, we have encountered, of course, the opposition which conservative-minded people always make to all proposals of change; and which, we hasten to add, they frequently make from the best possible motives, with a firm conviction that changes as a rule are harmful, and that while the wheels continue to run at all it is a mistake to interfere with the machinery. We have found others again who opposed nursing reforms—quite honestly—because they were not aware of the crying evils and abuses which at present exist.

While we have been unable to agree in these matters with the optimists who consider that "everything is all for the best, in this best of all possible worlds," we have always recognised and acknowledged the honourable nature of their opposition. At present, we say nothing concerning the intense and virulent hostility which has been exhibited towards us; that is the lot of all reformers, and we are quite content

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