

THE NURSING RECORD AND HOSPITAL WORLD, April 21, 1900.

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## Editorial.

### A PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATION.

EVOLUTION is a law of nature, and, this being so, those who are working for the organisation of the profession of nursing may take courage, for nature is on their side, and although she may work slowly—too slowly for some ardent spirits, who would fain see the profession they love in the position it must eventually take—she must, in the end, triumph. The history of the evolution of all professions has been the same, one of struggle on the part of progressive spirits, and of obstruction on the part of others who for various reasons desire to retard inevitable reforms. What was the history of the evolution of the medical profession but one of opposition, party spirit and heated controversy, not only from outside the profession, as is to a great extent the case in the present opposition to the organisation of nursing, but from medical men themselves, an opposition which manifested itself in a violent antagonism to Mr. Thomas Wakley, the pioneer of professional medicine. Growth, at any rate the growth of corporate bodies, is always a painful process, a time of unrest, of experiments, of mistakes, and fresh beginnings, before the new profession arrives at maturity and

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