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THE
Nursing Record

EVERY SATURDAY
ONE PENNY.

AND

The Hospital World.

"QUI NON
PROFIT DEFICIT."

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Editorial.

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER.

THE history of the last few years has shown that on all sides there is a movement in the Nursing World towards organization, the outcome of a widespread feeling amongst the best nurses that, in common with other professions, there is need of professional control if the honour and dignity of nursing and nurses are to be upheld. We desire to draw attention once more to this feeling and to point out the necessity for co-operation amongst the Matrons in various countries in order that the organization attempted may be founded on a right and sound basis. As the leading members of their profession, our Matrons owe it to their less influential colleagues to perform this public duty, and to direct into the best channels the aspirations and energies of the rank and file. Moreover, to take a lower stand-point, that of expediency, Matrons cannot expect the nurses to stand aside for ever, and, if our superintendents fail to take their rightful place in the forefront of this movement, those with less experience, and therefore less able to direct it, will replace them at the helm, and organization will go on without the benefit of their guidance. The only line consistent with dignity and duty, is for Matrons and nurses to co-operate to effect

a stable basis of professional organization. A practical illustration for the need of united action amongst nurses is given in our foreign letter this week, which shows that it has been seriously proposed in Canada to form an Association of Nurses controlled by an Advisory Board of medical men. This most dangerous proposition has been made by six nurses and some medical men of Montreal, and will be found embodied in Clause 7 of the Bill which we print on page 445.

It would be incredible that medical men should propose to grasp absolute power in an Association of Trained Nurses in Canada, were it not for the bitter lesson we have had in this country in connection with the line of action adopted by the medical members of the Royal British Nurses' Association. That their determination to dominate British nurses has been noted by our Canadian sisters is proved by the fact that they are desirous of avoiding "the rocks upon which the Royal British Nurses' Association has been wrecked." If nursing is to attain the status of a profession it must be organised and controlled by a representative Board of Nurses, and until nurses are ready for self-government they are unfit for professional status. In the meantime they must avoid at all costs being gobbled up by the associated profession of medicine.

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