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## Editorial.

### WANTED—FEVER NURSES.

THE columns of this and of other professional journals have, for many weeks, contained advertisements to the above effect, emanating from some of the largest Fever Hospitals. It is well known that there has been, during the past few months, an altogether abnormal amount of epidemic disease in the Metropolis, which has strained the accommodation at the disposal of the Asylums Board to its utmost capacity, and yet that, despite the great demand, a large number of beds, at more than one Institution, have not been utilized, because the managers were unable to obtain sufficient Nurses to attend upon the patients. This has led to the hasty conclusion that Nurses were afraid of facing contagious diseases. We have no hesitation in declaring that such a supposition is entirely unfounded, and is controverted indeed by the readiness with which Nurses have often volunteered for similar employment when necessity arose. There is good reason to believe that Nurses are no whit less self-sacrificing than medical men have, in all ages, shown themselves to be; but the public must clearly understand that the conditions of their labour are very different. As a class, Nurses are much more dependent upon their own exertions for their livelihood than medical men are, and however hard they work, they can never make more than a comparatively small income. Doctors have habituated the public to expect that they will do any amount of professional work for nothing. Nurses simply cannot afford to imitate their example, and in order to live they must receive remuneration for their labour.

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