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The Hospital World.

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Editorial.

MATRONS IN COUNCIL.

THE discussion which, during the last few weeks, has been conducted with such ability by Matrons in Council, in these columns has sufficiently proved both the importance and the interest of that new departure. It appears to us that it would be well now to sum up the arguments, which have been advanced upon the first subject in debate:—"Should Probationers pay for their training?"

On the whole, the opinions expressed rather incline to the belief that if every Probationer were compelled to pay a premium to the Hospital that trained her, a considerable number of women, excellently qualified to become Nurses, would be excluded from the profession; and that, therefore, it would not be well to make such a hard and fast rule. The force of the argument is indisputable, but it is necessary to observe that practically it stands alone, and is almost entirely unsupported by other proof against the advisability of the proposal.

On the other hand, it has been argued that the principle of payment by Probationers is, and for long has been, an accepted fact. Whether they pay for three months or for three years, is a detail, and does not alter the cardinal principle involved. On this, it may be pertinently asked: Has the introduction of paying Probationers into Hospitals raised or lowered the *personnel* of the Nursing Staff? There is only one possible answer to that question. Has the plan of making Probationers pay failed or succeeded? Again, there can only be

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Contents.

EDITORIAL—MATRONS IN COUNCIL	265
COMING EVENTS... ..	266
ON THE TRAINING OF SICK NURSES	267
THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION	268
A PIONEER IN NURSING	269
NURSING ECHOES	270
MATRONS IN COUNCIL	272
MEDICAL MATTERS	274
REFLECTIONS	275
NATIONAL HEALTH SOCIETY	276
OUTSIDE THE GATES	277
SCIENCE NOTES	277
NOTES ON ART	278
A BOOK OF THE WEEK	278
REVIEW	279
INVENTIONS, &c.,	279
COMMENTS AND REPLIES	280

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)