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Editorial.

NURSING ETIQUETTE.

FROM various comments which have recently appeared in journals, which are usually well informed even upon strictly professional matters, it would appear that considerable misapprehension exists concerning what may, for want of a better term, be called Nursing Etiquette. It might be well, therefore, to briefly explain the subject both in principle and detail, especially as, so far as we are aware, these have never yet been clearly defined.

Nursing Etiquette, then, like that of all other professions, is, or should be, based upon two broad principles; the first being, that the members of the profession are all fellow-workers who have important and responsible duties to perform both to the public and to each other, and that for the sake both of harmony and comfort it is essential that their mutual relations should be well understood and observed; and the second, that every Nurse should act towards others as she would wish them, individually, to act towards herself.

The first principle involves the necessity of order and discipline, so that the Nurse shall efficiently fulfil the duties entrusted to her. Nurses are now generally recognized as part of the great army of Medicine, and most of the rules of etiquette which it is incumbent upon them to observe, are founded upon, and are analogous to, those in force in military life. It is well known in the Nursing world that it is at those Training Schools, where this view is most strictly maintained, that the best tone prevails amongst the Staff, and, indeed, that the best training is given. Experienced eyes can tell in a few minutes, by the manner in which a Nurse com-

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