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Editorial.

POPULAR NURSING—I.

AN esteemed correspondent has sent us several Nursing schemes, honouring us with the request that we should express our opinion upon them. We deem the matter to be of sufficient importance, both to Nurses and the public at large, to consider their details in this column at some length.

The first point that strikes us is that these several schemes, emanating as they do from Lincoln, Essex, and Surrey, exhibit the increasing interest and importance which is being taken in, and placed upon, Nursing matters; because they are all designed with the view of providing improved Nursing in rural districts. Now, we would desire to express, in the most unmistakeable terms, our conviction that the promoters of each one of these schemes, are desirous of assisting their poorer neighbours and of providing for them benefits in the way of Nursing from which rural labourers are at present precluded. We feel convinced that these ladies and gentlemen have no other end than pure philanthropy in view, and, therefore, we are inclined to hope that they will accept our criticism of their schemes as frankly as we give it; and that that they will be persuaded that we raise objections simply on the ground of public policy and professional benefit.

The first scheme which we propose to consider is that of the Essex County Cottage Nursing Association. It is stated that this "Association has been formed exclusively for the benefit of the working classes in the county, and it aims at providing a staff of Nurses for cottage homes, and at placing the services of such Nurses at the disposal of the humblest dwellers in every parish in the county." With this we have the most cordial sympathy as with the kindness and good intentions

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