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Editorial.

SELF-GOVERNMENT.

HERE is a general feeling, at present, in the Nursing world which is evidently gathering strength as time goes on, that the profession requires a further development, so far as its organization is concerned. In other professions, a time has always arrived when its members realized, and, sooner or later, demanded, their right, not only to band themselves together for mutual protection and assistance but also for the purpose of controlling the whole body of the profession. In Medicine, in Law, and in the Church, the principle has been conceded, and the State has conferred powers of self-government upon these several professions. Events, it would seem, are quickly following on the same path, so far as Nursing is concerned, and, as the profession becomes better organized, the demand for State-granted powers of autonomy will, undoubtedly, become more general and more powerful, until these are obtained.

Everything shows that the stream is flowing in this direction. The Royal British Nurses' Association was the first outward and visible proof of the widespread feeling of professionalism, and the keenness with which it has refused to have any dealings with outsiders, or to permit any of the laity to take part in its deliberations, in its organisation, or in its management, has been widely commented upon and generally recognised as wise. Indeed, the wisdom of the exclusion of any but professional persons from its body has been abundantly proved, and the Association has so far attained its chief objects, because it has been

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