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Editorial.

NURSING LEGISLATION.

WE are privileged to make, at this commencement of a new year, an announcement of the greatest importance to Nurses. For some time past a strong Committee has been engaged in drafting a Bill for the Registration of Trained Nurses. They have neither hastened nor rested. Again and again alterations have been made of which growing experience dictated the advisability. A simple and at the same time a practical scheme has been the object which the draughtsmen have sought to attain. And now we learn that the Bill has taken definite form, and that it is being submitted to those members of Parliament and others who have promised their

assistance to the measure. When it has passed their scrutiny and is ready for presentation to Parliament, we shall have the pleasure of printing it in these columns. Recent events have forced this question forward into the field of practical politics, and we understand that they will be quoted in both Houses as proof of the necessity for the Registration of Nurses being made a national matter, and controlled by a State-appointed body. One word is perhaps permissible to us from a personal point of view. Nine years ago, we publicly stated that the Nursing Bill was our ultimate goal, but that the Royal Charter was a stepping-stone which might take ten years to gain. It was attained in half that time. We should have been glad if, for some years to come, Registration could have been carried out by the Royal British Nurses' Association, until a greater uniformity in Nursing education, and a greater unanimity on the subject on the part of Hospital managers, had been secured. It was fated otherwise, and now, once more, we venture on a prediction. We have reason to believe that, before this century closes—that is to say in less than four years—the first Nursing Act will have become law in this country, and the State Registration of Nurses will be an accomplished fact.

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