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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 7th, 1897.

VOL. XIX.

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**Editorial.**

A PUBLIC CORPORATION.

RECENT events have clearly proved that the officials, and even many of the members, of the Royal British Nurses' Association have quite misunderstood, or altogether overlooked, the fact that this body is a public Corporation. It is no small private Society which can do as it chooses, secure in its insignificance, but a body incorporated by Royal Charter and granted definite powers, not for the aggrandisement of this or of that person, but for the improvement of a skilled profession and for the protection and benefit of the public. That this fact is clearly recognised by the Press of this country is shown by the opinions expressed, during the last fortnight, by our contemporaries, and some of which we have the pleasure to reprint, in another column, this week. The fact, then, that the Association is a body in which the public is largely interested and concerned, is a powerful reason why a public inquiry should be made into the charges advanced against the present management; and it also explains the extreme interest which has been evinced during the last month in this matter, by men and women of all classes of society. Some of the latter have expressed their strong disapproval at the "deliberate attempt made to bully women in a women's Association"—conduct which most

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