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Editorial.

NURSES' CO-OPERATIONS.

THE principles upon which co-operative societies of nurses are, or should be, founded can be very clearly defined. We may be forgiven for regarding such combinations with the greatest personal interest, inasmuch as the Royal British Nurses' Association was the first body in this, or any other, country which attempted to unite trained nurses for their mutual support and assistance; and one of the first suggestions which that Association made—indeed, one of the purposes for which it was founded—was that agencies should be provided whereby private nurses desiring work might be brought into contact with those who desired their services, and so should be able to obtain employment without the intervention of a middleman, who might be indifferent to any interests except his own. During the last eight years we have had the pleasure of seeing this system adopted very widely, not only in London, but also in many large provincial towns.

Such co-operations then are, of course, designed chiefly for the assistance of private nurses; hospitals and other public institutions

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