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LECTURES TO NURSES ON ANTISEPTICS IN SURGERY.

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Contents.

| | |
|---|-----|
| EDITORIAL | 389 |
| ANNOTATIONS | 390 |
| LECTURES ON THE NURSING OF LUNG DISEASES | 392 |
| MEDICAL MATTERS | 393 |
| NURSING POLITICS | 394 |
| APPOINTMENTS | 395 |
| NURSING AT CAMP WIKOFF | 395 |
| NURSING A SCIENCE | 397 |
| NURSING AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS | 397 |
| HONOURS FOR NURSES | 398 |
| NURSING IN THE FORTUNATE ISLES | 399 |
| NURSING ECHOES | 400 |
| REFLECTIONS | 403 |
| PROFESSIONAL REVIEW | 404 |
| OUTSIDE THE GATES | 405 |
| ROYAL ACADEMY | 405 |
| INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CHILDREN | 406 |
| A BOOK OF THE WEEK | 406 |
| WHAT TO READ | 407 |
| COMING EVENTS | 407 |
| CORRESPONDENCE | 407 |
| NOTICES; COMMENTS AND REPLIES | 408 |

Editorial.

"POOR THINGS."

WE propose this week to devote our Editorial space to the purpose of bringing before nurses the importance of self-support, if they desire to take the position of a scientific profession rather than that of a branch of domestic service. We speak of Nurses as apart from Nursing, for, of course, to provide for the skilled nursing of the sick is a laudable object of charity, and our public hospitals, the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, and other kindred institutions are legitimate objects for charitable support. But with reference to nurses' professional associations, we would say unhesitatingly that directly nurses permit themselves to be held up in their professional capacity, as needing financial support, they at once depreciate their professional standing in the estimation of the public. "Oh, yes, poor things! of course, they are so badly off, we must do something for them;" and so with the best of intentions a "benefit" is organised to replenish the empty coffers. But the immediate result is that the nurses who go as supplicants, with hat in hand to the charitable public, no longer rank in their estimation as a self-respecting and self-supporting Profession. They may ask for patronage and obtain it, but they cannot with one hand take the public gold, and with the other link themselves on to professional workers; for the latter will have none of them. "Put down the gold, they say, and earn

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)