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### Editorial.

#### RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

NURSING is undoubtedly a vocation which has been evolved largely from the humanitarian motives inspired by strong religious conviction, and, indeed, until within comparatively recent years it has been almost entirely in the hands of religious orders. There were advantages and disadvantages in connection with this condition. The disadvantages were that the members of religious orders being bound to work wherever they were placed by their superiors, it follows that if the head of a Community did not possess both a knowledge and a love of nursing, sisters might be deputed to nursing work who did not possess the nursing instinct, and therefore could not do really good work. Again, the care of the sick is but one of the many works undertaken by religious communities, a sister might therefore be in a hospital to-day, and elsewhere to-morrow. Under these circumstances she was apt, being presumably a good woman, to perform her work conscientiously, but not to bring to it that devotion engendered by a definite permanent dedication to a given object.

The science of nursing, though the most sweet and lovable of mistresses is an exacting one, claiming whole hearted allegiance, and any one desirous of serving her must be prepared

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