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Editorial.

NURSES AS JOURNALISTS.

A MONGST the hundreds of women who are to-day crowding into the ranks of journalism there are, curiously, few nurses to be found. This is obvious. The reasons are somewhat less obvious. True, it may be advanced that the nurse, having already a profession, should follow it, that her life is one of so many interests that she has no desire to exchange it for any other. Further that the work of a nurse is much more regular and therefore correspondingly less trying, than that of a journalist. Again, that as journalism is comparatively accessible to the amateur, while nursing is a highly specialised calling, commanding therefore as a rule good pay, there is little inducement, even from a monetary point of view to exchange callings. All these arguments have some weight, but they are not sufficient to account for the unreadiness of nurses as a class to put pen to paper; for though they may serve to deter them from entering the ranks of professional journalism they do not apply to the augmentation of their incomes by occasional contributions to papers and magazines. Yet how rare it is to take up a paper containing any article by

a trained nurse, even dealing with her own special branch of work, and it is still more rare to find her discussing the current topics of the day. We may assume, therefore, that there is room for nurses, who are competent to wield the pen, in the journalistic world, and indeed though the middle stratum may be overcrowded there is in all professions room and to spare at the top. What is needed is more than average ability and capacity.

Granted then there are openings in journalism for nurses, are there nurses qualified to fill these openings? To arrive at a right conclusion on this subject we must consider what qualities are necessary to a successful journalist. In the first place she must be able to write with facility, and this is a qualification which, though it may to some extent be acquired, is to a great extent a natural gift. We are accustomed to hear of the "born nurse," and though we have come to disbelieve in her, and to know that training is essential, and that no amount of natural aptitude can take its place, yet we know that without that aptitude no amount of training will ever make a nurse. In the same way a facility in expressing her ideas on paper is necessary to the success of the would be journalist, though she has much to learn as to technical details before she can rightly be de-

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