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Editorial.

THE SUPPRESSION OF "SHOP."

NOW that so many private nurses belong to co-operative institutions, and take their own fees, a need for homes in which they can live has been made apparent. With the demand the supply has to some extent been provided, but, with the provision, a new danger has sprung up, namely, that these Homes should form a sort of clearing house for the gossip of the different co-operations with regard to their patients. We hear on various sides of the lack of control in many residential homes with regard to talking "shop" at meals. That this is a tendency on the part of many nurses no one can fail to be aware. On the other hand, many of the best nurses dislike this atmosphere of gossip, and consider it a breach not only of etiquette, but of professional trust, and consequently not a few take rooms of their own, or share them with a friend, in order to escape so uncongenial an environment. They miss in this way some of the comforts which they might have in a larger establishment, but they are free from the chatter concerning the private affairs of patients, which they rightly believe should not

be made the subject of public conversation. The evil of talking shop is one which the Superintendent of a Home can do much to put down, and, when once a healthy sentiment on the subject has been inculcated among the inmates, it is readily maintained, and a cry of "shop" from the older members when a new comer ventures on the tabooed topic speedily silences the transgressor. The evil is perhaps best dealt with in this way, for many proprietors of Homes, more especially those who are not nurses, hesitate to speak directly on the subject, or to enforce regulations with regard to it, not knowing quite where to draw the line, and desiring to avoid interference with the personal liberty of their tenants. We should ourselves be the first to deprecate any undue interference with personal liberty, at the same time it is a fundamental rule in the good government of large communities that when the interests of a few interfere with the well being of the many the former must give way. Shop at unseasonable times is not tolerated by men, and women must also learn self government also in this respect. Men learn in their undergraduate days that it is not "good form," and any one at Oxford who ventures to talk shop in Hall is immediately "sconced," that is

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