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Editorial.

THE GROWTH OF PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES

THE success of the Leagues of Nurses already organised in this country, and the prospect of the formation of others, shows that they are likely to prove as popular and useful a form of nursing organisation in this country as in the United States. The League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses now numbers close upon 400 members, and it is hoped that by the time the General Meeting takes place the corner will be turned. St. John's House League, although it cannot in the nature of things become as large as that of St. Bartholomew's, has been successfully launched, and the members are showing a keen interest in its affairs, and have brought out the first number of an admirable magazine. Miss Mollett, as will be seen from her report to the Matrons' Council, which we publish in another column, has returned from the United States with a deep appreciation of American methods of organization, and is inaugurating a Nurses' League in connection with the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, and on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Registered Nurses' Society notice is given that

the formation of a League of Registered Nurses will be considered. The present is the day of beginnings, but there is little doubt that within the next few years many Leagues, both in connection with training schools and with the larger co-operations of nurses, will be called into being.

It is also certain that both for public spirited reasons and also for a less noble but most justifiable one, that of self-protection—the most primary instinct of human kind—organization for professional purposes, in addition to co-operation for merely commercial reasons, is necessary.

To take a concrete instance, a paper was contributed to the recent International Congress of Nurses in America, describing the Nurses' Co-operation of London, and dealing with the recent differences in that society. It is a somewhat anomalous condition of affairs that such a paper should be presented by a lady unconnected with the Co-operation, and it can hardly be doubted that were the nurses combined in a professional Association the paper would have been presented by one of its number, and that a member of its League would have been present at the Congress to watch the proceedings in its interests and to give official

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)