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## Editorial.

### THE COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

WE last week announced the decision to form a new Society for the purpose of obtaining the Compulsory Registration of Trained Nurses. A letter in the *British Medical Journal*, by Dr. C. G. Havell of Felixstowe, which strongly urges the Registration of Nurses, affords a striking comment on our own article which appeared on the same date. We welcome any suggestion from medical men on the Registration of Nurses, and have always felt sure that the medical profession as a whole must not be judged by the medical officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and that many medical practitioners throughout the country have begun to realise the urgent necessity for this just reform. It is probable that the professions of medicine and nursing approach the question from somewhat different standpoints. While medical men feel the injury done to their own work, and even to their professional reputation, when the care of their patients is undertaken by the ignorant and the unfit, thoroughly trained and

certificated nurses realize mainly the injustice of being required to work on the same footing as the untrained, while medical men and nurses alike recognize the danger to the public of the present condition of things, and converge to the same point, namely, Compulsory Registration, as the only means of enabling the public to discriminate between the trained and the untrained women.

We have for the last fifteen years advocated Registration, and have closely watched the nursing world, bearing this subject always in view. We have no hesitation in saying that since the hon. officers of the R.B.N.A. betrayed the interests of the nurses on this vital question, in publicly voting against the *principle* of Registration, the need for it has become more acute.

In urging the Registration of Trained Nurses, it is necessary to point out that no injustice is likely to be done to women practising now as nurses whose training was not in conformity with the standard to be enforced in the future. Legislation is not retrospective, and the utmost care is invariably taken to safeguard existing rights.

What is needed is the passage of an Act which will create a Governing Body of the

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