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Editorial.

PROMOTION OF NURSES.

THE promotion of nurses to the higher hospital posts such as Ward Sisters, Night Superintendents, and Assistant Matrons is one which is a matter of paramount importance to the well-being of any institution, and the utmost care and expert knowledge are required in the selection made.

RECOMMENDATION OF MATRON ESSENTIAL.

We have no hesitation in saying that the only official qualified to make recommendations on this point to the Board of Management is the Matron and Superintendent of the Nurse Training School, who has watched and supervised the probationers throughout their term of training, and has received the periodical reports of the Ward Sisters as to their capacity and work during the whole of their term of training.

EXECUTIVE CAPACITY NECESSARY.

Many points must be taken into consideration in the selection of a Sister. Primarily she must be a good nurse, but this is not enough. She must have administrative capacity if all the many departments of the ward for which she is responsible are to work

efficiently and smoothly, not only in themselves but in relation to one another. The visits of the medical officers, the care of the patients, the work of the nurses, the ordering of the domestic duties of the ward, all claim due consideration, and it must be noted that administrative capacity is by no means universal amongst women, any more than amongst men.

A TEACHER OF NURSING.

Further, not only must the Ward Sister be a good administrator, but she must also have teaching capacity. The Ward Sisters are responsible for instructing the probationers of the School in their practical nursing duties, and upon them largely depends the efficiency of the graduate nurses, and consequently the reputation of the training school. The teaching gift is quite distinct from that for practical nursing, but it is an essential requisite in a Ward Sister.

SUITABILITY OF CANDIDATES.

It will be understood, therefore, that out of the probationers who pass through the training school and obtain its certificate only a limited number give evidence of administrative and teaching capacity which warrants their recommendation for Sisters' posts when vacancies

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