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OUR ALBUM.



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EDITORIAL.

THE POWERS OF A MATRON.

RECENT events in the Hospital world have recalled to the memories of many the opinions uttered by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in her paper read before the meeting of the British Nurses' Association last winter, and the full truth of which have since then been upon more than one occasion amply justified, though perhaps never more so than within the past few weeks. "One cannot but believe," she said, "that most of the storms which now and then unfortunately arise in Hospitals if traced to their origin would be found to spring from the absence of exact knowledge upon the part of some worker as to his or her precise duties. On the one hand, therefore, much misunderstanding would, I believe, be prevented if the Matron ever remembered that she is a public official, and that her works and her very words are liable to be regarded by the public as representative not of her office alone, but even of the Institution with which she is connected."

Since these almost prophetic words of warning were uttered, we have had a notorious example of how much harm can be wrought to a great Institution, and to its reputation, by an ill-judged leap into literature on the part of an official in a state of irresponsible frivolity. We do not deem it our duty, because this Journal is the accepted organ of Nurses not only in this country but also in "Greater Britain," to gloss over faults which tend to hinder the work and usefulness of the calling. But rather with unflinching earnestness we would point out these errors, on the rare occasions when they occur, and urge their future avoidance.

Within the last few weeks we have heard of two Matrons and a Hospital Secretary who by thus attempting to overleap the limits of their respective spheres of work have brought upon them-

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