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EDITORIAL.

THE DOUBLE-EDGED PROTEST.

ONE of our readers recently received, anonymously, and forwarded to us, a pamphlet which deserves the most serious consideration both from Medical men and Nurses, and which affords inferentially and directly some most significant proofs of the mischief that has been wrought by the ridiculous protest against Registration. It is entitled, "Hospital Reform Papers No. 2.—Hospital Management: A Word to the Benevolent." No name is attached to it, and even the name of the printer or publisher is conspicuous by its absence. The importance of it, therefore, is simply intrinsic, and the first points of note are that it is evidently from the pen of a powerful and practised writer, and that he or she is neither a Doctor nor a Nurse. In other words, it represents the standpoint from which the question of Registration is viewed by an undeniably clever unprofessional mind.

The great value of that measure to the public, and to Nurses, has been clearly grasped, but the writer has been led into the gravest error by the protest which has been signed, and so widely circulated, against the scheme. "The next step is

to obtain a Royal Charter," says the pamphlet on page 5. "One effect of this has been alarm in Medical circles, and a protest has been organised with rather unseemly haste. . . A memorial is being *rushed* by them, protesting against the recognition of Trained Nurses' Registration as being *disadvantageous to the public, and injurious to the Medical practitioner*. They go further; for these reasons—the latter so very disinterested!—they declare that they will offer to the movement 'all legitimate opposition in our power.' The Hospitals have, of course, signed the protest. The faculty stood out against the granting of University degrees to women for a long time, but were driven to the wall at last. . . The ladies won then as they will win now. The Princess Christian and her noble band of fellow-workers are not exactly the kind of people to haul down their flag without much better reasons than these."

To this last paragraph we as cordially assent as we freely recognise the literary vigour of the writer. But we claim to have gained for ourselves an indisputable right to speak with authority upon this subject. For one hundred weeks we have rarely issued a number of this journal without some word of support or encouragement to those who have been so bravely battling against the most unscrupulous opposition, and in the face of incessant abuse, to secure a system of Registration of Nurses. We have discussed that subject from every conceivable aspect. We have advanced the most weighty reasons for the adoption of the scheme. And we can say for ourselves that we have received the most ungrudging support, the most kindly advice, and most invaluable aid in this course of action from Medical men in nearly every part of the country.

The well-known facts that the British Nurses' Association was founded chiefly, if not entirely, by the assistance of Medical men; that from that time until now it has been mainly dependent

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