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EDITORIAL.

WE must divert this week from the subject which we have been discussing, to say a few words concerning the important scheme for the benefit of Nurses, to which public attention was called last Saturday by an influential meeting at the Admiralty. Our readers will have seen in many of the daily papers more or less full accounts of the proceedings, so that we need not do more than consider the proposals which were so powerfully advocated by, perhaps, two of the most eloquent speakers of the day—Sir James Paget and the Bishop of Ripon. They are based on the acknowledged facts that Nursing well done implies hard work and great responsibility—a heavy strain both on the body and mental strength of the worker; that many Nurses suffer in health from this over-work; and that comparatively few can obtain the change of air and of scene which would be more beneficial than any other measure in preventing illness or in restoring strength in convalescence. How widely accepted these facts are in professional circles was proved by the General Council of the British Nurses' Association adopting, as one of the first benevolent plans to be carried out, the establish-

ment of a Convalescent Home for its Members. And, in common with many other well-wishers of the Association, we have been looking forward with no small pleasure to the inception of this part of its programme. But we are informed that the work of Registration is so great that it is at present absorbing all the time and attention of the managing body; and that, moreover, when pecuniary details were studied, it was found that a large sum of money would be required to carry this scheme into effect, which could not be raised at once by purely professional effort. Meanwhile, to provide Nurses with such much needed help, a number of well-known ladies have, it appears, formed themselves into a Committee to collect money for the establishment and maintenance of a Convalescent and Holiday Fund for Nurses. These include Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, the Duchess of Abercorn, Theresa, Countess of Shrewsbury, Lady George Hamilton, Lady Edward Cavendish, Lady Audrey Buller, Mrs. Jeune, Miss Stephen Holland, Mrs. Lucas, and Mrs. Ernest Hart. When it is added that Miss Catherine J. Wood is also a member of the Committee, and that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick is the Hon. Secretary, it is needless to say that the scheme will have the confidence of Nurses, and its success may with equal confidence be predicted.

What, then, are the proposals enunciated by its distinguished advocates? Firstly, that a fixed local habitation shall be obtained as soon as possible; and, secondly, that by means of the Fund assistance should be given to Nurses who might have friends to whom to go, but cannot afford the necessary travelling and other expenses. Other Nurses, again, it is urged, may be precluded by distance from going to the Home, but might be assisted by the Fund to obtain change of air and rest.

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