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## EDITORIAL.

### REGISTRATION FEES.

THE final regulation for the Registration of Nurses issued by the British Nurses' Association, to which we referred last week as well worthy of further comment, reads as follows:—"After payment of the current expenses of Registration for each year, the surplus receipts shall be invested in the names of the Trustees of the Association, and the dividends arising from such investment shall be expended for the benefit of the Registered Nurses in such manner as the Council shall from time to time consider most advisable."

We are neither surprised that this important matter is proved at the very commencement of the scheme to have been already carefully considered, nor that such an equitable and wise decision should have been arrived at. But we contend that, even were other proofs wanting, this one regulation is clearest evidence both of the foresight with which the Registration scheme has been planned and of the accurate knowledge alike of Registration and of Nurses possessed by

the professional authorities who have initiated it. To show the full importance and value of this proposition we may refer to the manner in which the fees paid by Medical men for their Registration are expended. Every Doctor is almost compelled by the law of the land to Register his various degrees or diplomas, and for such Registration he is called upon to pay a fee of five pounds. In 1888 the General Medical Council received in this manner more than £6,000; from investments and other sources nearly £2,000 besides, or a total income of more than £8,000. But in 1888 the whole of this amount was expended in carrying on the year's work, £3,000 being disbursed as fees to the members of the Council for their attendance at meetings and their travelling and other expenses. We learn upon good authority that the members of the Registration Board for Nurses will give their services gratuitously, so that this chief source of expenditure will in their case be saved. It is also expected that the offices of the Association will, at any rate for the present, be sufficient for the requirements of the work, so that another costly item will also be minimised; and so it is apparently believed that, even from the small fees which at first it is proposed to charge Nurses for Registration, a considerable annual saving will be effected.

In reference to this, we may frankly say that if it had not been already proved by the remarkable balance-sheet in the First Annual Report that the Association must have most able financial managers, we should feel inclined to think that this idea was somewhat too sanguine. The cost of the work in the case of Doctors and Lawyers is greatest in the items of printing, stationery, and clerical assistance; and, considering the novel and wide difficulties which will inevitably be met with in the case of Nurses—of their frequent migration from Hospital to Hospital, or from one town to another; and of the constant correspondence thereby involved; of the great expense

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