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## EDITORIAL.

### REAL BENEVOLENT SCHEMES.

THE British Nurses' Association has taken a new departure, which must be fraught with the most important consequences in the future. As our readers will have noticed in the account given in these pages, last week, of the meeting of the General Council, certain Rules were passed for Pension and Benevolent Funds, so that these two schemes are now accomplished facts. At the very commencement of the movement the Committee stated its programme in no uncertain words, although at the time this was, by many, held to be visionary and impossible of attainment. It was declared that social and professional intercourse should be promoted amongst Members, and this was at once commenced by means of the many country and London meetings which were held, to obtain professional opinion upon the details of the organization and plans of the Association. Then came the Sessional Meet-

ings, the *Conversazione*, and the Annual Meeting; all have been carried on regularly since, with a success which is well known. Next to the organisation of the Association upon this basis was placed the great work of the Registration of Nurses. Probably no one foresaw then with what bitterness this would be opposed by those whose vaulting vanity or pecuniary profit would be hurt by the protection of the public from incompetent Nurses. But, as our writings two years ago prove, we pointed out the many years of unremitting work required before either lawyers or medical men obtained legal Registration for their callings respectively, and argued that the scheme of the Association would probably require equally laborious efforts to force it forward to the point of legislation. To some we know that we appeared at the time to be foreboders of imaginary evil, but we were only reasoning from the teachings of history. No one could have then foretold—because there was no record of any such previous experience—that those who were making money by swindling the public, or who were insensate at their nonentity being calmly recognised, would be able to stir up honourable men and women to act as their cat's-paws and oppose a scheme so simple, so straightforward, and so generally recognised as necessary and useful.

On the other hand, no one could have foreseen how the stars in their courses would have fought on the side of the Association, so that at the moment when with calm determination it had pressed forward to a successful issue its scheme of Registration, the real reasons for the opposition to the measure would have been publicly disclosed, as recently has been the case. And it is now rumoured that the whole of the conspiracy will shortly be laid bare, and the connection exposed which exists between the half-dozen

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