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No. 135.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30th, 1890.

VOL. 5.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Those of our subscribers who wish to notify change of address must send such notification in order that it may reach the publishers NOT LATER than the Monday morning before publishing, otherwise the change cannot be made.

EDITORIAL.

CAUSE AND EFFECT.

OUR attention has been called, by one of the leaders of the medical profession, to paragraphs which appeared a few days ago in the *Pall Mall Gazette* and in the *Lancet*, with this comment:—"Will the staff of the London Hospital learn from this what the public and the profession think of the new controversy?" That remains to be seen. But meanwhile we believe that the facts, to which our correspondent has so kindly drawn our notice, deserve the most careful consideration. Both the paragraphs to which we allude relate to the new entries at the Medical Schools—the number of Students who, during the first week of October, commenced their studies in London and the Provinces. These numbers are always eagerly scanned, because they show practically the comparative reputation which each Hospital holds at the time in the medical world, not only for its teaching powers, but also for the

moral and material success known to attend its Students in their after careers. For this latter depends to an incalculable extent upon the friendly feeling cultivated between teachers and taught, the amicable working together of the entire staff for the common good, and the high standard of *esprit de corps* maintained throughout both Hospital and Medical College. Exactly as one fragment of grit will destroy the efficiency of the best regulated machine, so one unpopular teacher has been known ere now to lower the reputation of a school. Much greater, therefore, must be the friction and the damage when an entire department of the Hospital is found to be radically misgoverned, and confidence and comfort only conspicuous by their absence; even if practices are not permitted which tend directly to bring the whole Institution into the gravest public discredit.

Some eleven years ago the change from the old order of Nursing to the new was made at Guy's Hospital. We abstain from recalling the troubles which ensued. Suffice it to say that, while the transition was undoubtedly difficult, there can be little doubt that the change induced unnecessary friction. For weeks the public and professional Press rang with recriminations, and the following October the Medical School of Guy's Hospital—although admittedly excellent, although entirely unconnected with the Nursing Department, although it had for years previously held the leading place amongst metropolitan schools—dropped suddenly and entirely in numbers and importance. It was six years before it began even to recover its position, and this slow upward return to its former prosperity explains the allusion in the following paragraph from the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—

"The returns have just been published of the new entries at the Medical Schools, both in

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