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EDITORIAL.

THE BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

WITH the most heartfelt pleasure we congratulate the British Nurses' Association upon its recent and highly successful Annual Meeting at Birmingham, and upon the excellent Report which the General Council was then able to present to the Members. It is unnecessary to tell how rapidly the Association has advanced both in numbers and importance. The full Report of the Meeting, which appeared in these columns last week, certifies this indisputably. While the mere fact that a large number of Matrons, Sisters, and Nurses attended the Meeting from many large Midland Hospitals proves, on the one hand, the widespread interest which is taken in the Association by the best workers in the profession; and, on the other, the salient feature that the Association is very far from being metropolitan in its constitution or its proceedings, as some through ignorance, and others through malice, have asserted.

The Second Annual Meeting, then, has been crowned in its way with as great success as that which attended its predecessor. And the interesting coincidences mentioned by Dr. Bedford

Fenwick—that the British Medical Association held its Second Annual Meeting also at Birmingham, and that it was then holding its fifty-eighth Annual Meeting in that town contemporaneously with the Second Annual Meeting of the British Nurses' Association—may well be accepted as a most auspicious omen for the future success of the latter body. The meeting, we imagine, will prove in the future to be memorable in several ways, not only for the important change effected in the Bye-Laws, or for the act of international courtesy displayed in the vote of congratulation to the American Nurses' Association, but as marking the commencement of a new era in the history of the Association itself. To these latter subjects we will return when an opportunity is afforded us; the first-named certainly requires prior consideration. The proposal made by Miss Wood, and endorsed by the Meeting, in brief was that from that time forward, and until further change was made, those Sisters and Nurses who were elected Members should be required to pay an annual subscription of five shillings, or a life subscription of two guineas, in place of the half-crown or one guinea hitherto in force; while Medical practitioners should become Members upon the payment of a life subscription of one guinea on entrance. The full importance of this may not be clear at first sight to many of our readers, and it will, therefore, be time well spent to point out facts which lie beneath the surface, and which, so far as we can learn, were not alluded to in the discussion on this matter, either by the General Council or at the Annual Meeting. Stress has been laid, and very naturally, upon the example set in this matter by other professional or social bodies—the smaller subscription required from those who are foundation Members, the increased amount demanded from those who join after a full

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