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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.

THE PERSECUTION OF NURSES.—I.

"THOSE whom the gods wish to destroy are first made mad," says an ancient Latin proverb, and recent events seem to lend some support to the statement. All our readers are doubtless aware of two facts. Firstly, that the uneasiness of the public mind in regard to the management of Metropolitan Hospitals, which has been growing for some time, culminated last spring in the wide-spread demand for a public inquiry; that this was then granted, and has since been in progress by means of a Select Committee of the House of Lords; and that revelations made before that body by witnesses

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concerning various Institutions have deepened the previous negative uncertainty into positive disquietude as regards some of these, and into actual dismay as regards the London Hospital. Secondly, that the Royal British Nurses' Association was founded some three years ago with the evident object of securing greatly needed Nursing reforms by the best possible method—quiet agitation within the profession, not by violently arousing public opinion to demand the abolition of abuses; and that its efforts to obtain improvements have been hampered and hindered at every turn by the antagonism of persons officially connected with certain Metropolitan Hospitals. We have no hesitation in saying that when the true history of this opposition comes to be written, the scandal—so far as the chief actors in it are concerned—will be immeasurable in its effects upon the Hospitals with which they are severally connected.

But now, just when the public mind is disquieted to its depths by the startling disclosures which are being made upon all sides as to the manner in which great charitable Institutions are, and have been, conducted, certain Hospital authorities have actually taken this most inopportune opportunity to prove their persecution of Nurses so openly that no one can misunderstand their action.

To explain the exact position of affairs to which we refer, it will be necessary to give a brief description of the object and working of certain Acts of Parliament known as the Companies' Acts. It has been a problem which has engaged the attention of every Government in the civilised world,

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