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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.

AT last, the Royal British Nurses' Association has aroused itself and spoken out. Its opponents have doubtless been as much surprised as its friends have been, at the absolute silence which the Association has maintained under the persistent and malicious attacks which have, from its very birth, been made upon it and its members. On many occasions we have presumed upon our steadfast support of the Association to speak our minds plainly, and express our very decided conviction that some public notice should be taken of the character of the opposition to which it was sub-

jected. We have done so because we have received many letters from members complaining very bitterly that they were not protected from the abuse which was showered upon them by a certain periodical, except by this journal. We have invariably replied to such correspondents that we could not ourselves understand the attitude of the Association, but that, considering the wisdom and success with which it was being managed, we felt confident that there must be some sufficient reason for its studied silence. Now the Association has spoken, and in no uncertain language, and from the comments of the daily press it is already plain what effect has been produced upon the public. Our readers will remember that some few weeks ago we printed certain resolutions passed at a private meeting at St. Thomas's Hospital in opposition to the proposed incorporation of the Association under the Companies' Acts, and criticised these effusions somewhat severely. As we naturally have no official knowledge of the private proceedings of the Association, it was impossible for us—as it has been impossible for any open-minded person—to explain the extraordinary arguments of its opponents upon this matter. To the *Lancet*, indeed, as to us, they appeared to be so entirely untenable as to make it marvellous why they had been advanced at all. Nor, indeed, could we understand why the Association should trouble itself to become incorporated. We, however, defended its action as well as we could do—in the dark. But now the whole thing is explained. It appears that Lady Bloomfield some fourteen

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