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EDITORIAL.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

CONTINUING our consideration of Dr. A. Ernest Sansom's letter from the point at which we had arrived last week, we may first remark that we have since been furnished with a remarkable and quite unexpected confirmation of the statements which we then advanced. For weeks past we have heard most amusing accounts from different parts of the country of the frantic efforts which were being made to secure signatures to a petition, against the Association, to the Board of Trade. Anybody and everybody, in any remote degree, connected with a Hospital was implored to sign. The petition has been hawked about wholesale, and

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now the result is made public. The mountain has been in labour, as in the ancient fable, and a mouse is born. To delude lay journals and readers into the idea that the list is one of portentous importance, not only the names, but the titles, the degrees, and all the public appointments held by each individual, are stated at full length, so that some of the signatories occupy no less than three lines in making their identity plain. We are only surprised that details as to their individual family connections were not added. Considering the enormous labour, and energy, and expense, which has been expended in the struggle to secure signatures, the petition amply justifies our prediction that the present campaign against the Association would prove how greatly the opponents of the Association had diminished in number and importance during the past two years. It is hardly credible, but these seventy-one signatories occupy one hundred and ten lines, or about half a column in the *Times*, to describe themselves, and they are connected with only thirteen Hospitals in the whole of the United Kingdom. We shall refer to this petition at some length hereafter, and only quote it now as an apt illustration and proof of the remarks which we made last week. It is, as we shall show, rendered more significant by the absence of many important names which figured in the previous protest against the Association.

But to return to Dr. Sansom's latest attack upon the Association. He makes a large number of definite assertions, but it is significant that he does not bring forward any proofs of the truth of these *ex cathedra* statements. Some of these are

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