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No. 151.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19th, 1891.

VOL. 6.

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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 NURSES' CO-OPERATION.

WE believe that this scheme is now in working order, and therefore we feel free to devote that consideration to it from which we were precluded whilst it was in an inchoate state. We understand that a benevolent gentleman has given £100, and that several Nurses have added their savings to this, and some smaller donations, in order to launch the business. Upon the kindheartedness of the donors, or the financial wisdom of the Nurses, we make no comment. Our only desire in these columns is to advance the well-being and the work of the class whose interests we represent, and therefore in this matter, as in many others which from time to time we have discussed, we criticise entirely in the abstract, and solely from that point of view.

Looking at the subject from this standpoint, it appears to us that certain fundamental principles upon which the relation of Nurses to the public must inevitably rest, should in the first place be clearly kept in mind. The sick public requires a skilled attendant—one, moreover, well recommended and under efficient control. It appears to us that these qualifications, simple and indisputable as they seem when thus stated, have been too often overlooked in the various discussions of this subject which have taken place. It has been too hastily assumed that skilfulness in the Nurse was, and must be, all that is required. It has been forgotten, for example, that in Nursing there is, beyond the patient, another and even more important factor—the guiding hand, in the shape of the Doctor; and that he requires to be supplied with an assistant into whose qualifications he has no time to personally inquire, and for a guarantee of whose efficiency therefore he is entirely dependent upon some outside body. In other words, it is essential to Medical men to obtain their Nurses from some Institution in whose management they have implicit confidence. Then, on the other hand, the element of control is one too often minimised or altogether overlooked by Nurses, probably because they hardly realise individually its crucial importance to the sick. When, however, it is remembered what great power and trust is reposed in the Private Nurse, and what harm as well as good she can bring about, the public naturally demands that so important a worker shall not be in a state of total and complete irresponsibility. In other words, that some recognised authority shall be responsible for the Nurse, to whom, if necessary, formal complaint can be made.

In the olden days, when anyone could undertake Nursing work, skill was considered a natural

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