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EDITORIAL.

CONTINUING our consideration of Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT's evidence before the Select Committee on Hospital management, we now arrive at the statements which he made with regard to the Registration of Nurses. Our readers doubtless remember the fact to which we have upon several occasions drawn attention, that the Hospitals' Association, of which Mr. BURDETT was the moving spirit and founder, attempted in 1887 to institute a system of Registration under its own auspices, and that this resulted in a dismal fiasco. The Royal British Nurses' Association undertook the work, has successfully carried it through as a voluntary measure, and will doubtless continue to carry it on until Parliament takes it under State control. It is notorious that *The Hospital*, which was then the organ of the Hospitals' Association, and is now chiefly owned and edited by Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT—which, until December, 1887, not only strongly advocated the adoption of Registration, but published

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speeches made by Mr. BURDETT, urging the necessity of such a system—has, ever since the failure of the Hospitals' Association, to carry it out, persistently agitated to prevent the Royal British Nurses' Association doing so. Having once more failed in this endeavour, incessant efforts have been made by our contemporary to discredit Registration, and even to smirch the characters of those Nurses who were wise and far-seeing enough to become Registered. It is necessary to recall these facts in order that the significance of Mr. BURDETT's evidence on the matter may be adequately understood. Lord SANDHURST asked the very pertinent and important question, "The registration affects the Nurses after they leave the hospital, does it not?" To which Mr. BURDETT replied, "If it affected them only after they left the hospital, there would not be the objection to it that there is; but it gives a bogus complexion to an untrained Nurse, and makes the public liable to believe that she is trained, when she is not."

We have, during the last fortnight, shown how an official at King's College Hospital proved that statements made by Mr. BURDETT concerning that Institution were entirely inaccurate, and we charitably argued that this must have occurred through ignorance. We can make no similar excuse for Mr. BURDETT on this subject of Registration, because he has been working for, and against, it for five years, and must by this time thoroughly understand the question. His statements were made deliberately and upon oath, and our readers can draw their own conclusions upon the matter from the bare facts which we will lay

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