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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 LICENCE OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

WE have discussed, at some length, during the past few weeks, the decision of the Board of Trade with regard to the application of the Royal British Nurses' Association to be permitted incorporation as a limited liability company, but without the customary addition of the word "Limited" to its name. This week the Board of Trade is called upon to consider a very similar application, and the announcement of its decision is, therefore, being looked for, with considerable interest.

It is well known in the Nursing world that, great as the direct influence of the Royal British Nurses' Association has become, its indirect

results have been even more widespread and more apparent. It enunciated, for example, for the first time, the principle of professional union amongst Nurses, and after three years' existence, it can show some three thousand women, joined together under its standard for the attainment of common ends. But the effects of this have already been felt in circles far outside that of the Association, and from all parts we now hear reports of societies formed for some special Nursing object. The Association has hitherto been largely occupied with Registration, and it will, perhaps, be some years before the State will take over the control of that important work, and so leave the hands of the Association free for its other educational and benevolent schemes. Meanwhile, not only has a commercial undertaking claimed the right to open a Register of Nurses, in the vain hope that the Association might fail in its task, but two of the most important proposals of the Association have already been carried into effect by independent bodies. In its first descriptive pamphlet special stress was laid upon the need for the establishment of Holiday Houses and Convalescent Homes; and also of offices to bring Nurses and their employers in direct communication with each other. It will perhaps be remembered by some of our readers that this pamphlet elicited a *brochure* in reply from the Matron of the London Hospital, which, with exuberant verbosity, endeavoured to prove that Registration must necessarily be most mischievous, Homes of Rest only mistaken kindness, and employment agencies utterly useless. In little more than a year the reasons for this ebullition of feeling

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