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EDITORIAL.

THE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

IN another column we give an account of the brief and simple, yet eminently interesting, ceremony which took place last Friday at the meeting of the General Council of the British Nurses' Association. Brief, for it lasted less than half-an-hour; simple, for nothing could have been less ostentatious; eminently interesting, not only for the eloquent words which were spoken, and the exalted social rank of one speaker, and the professional eminence of the others, but because the event will go down to future ages as the first public recognition of an organised Nursing profession in England.

The onerous work in which the British Nurses' Association has for just three years been incessantly engaged, and in which Her Royal Highness PRINCESS CHRISTIAN has taken so prominent and personally active a part, has now been successfully commenced. Commenced, we say, because until the end of the world it will of necessity be ever in progress, and can never be

completed if it is to be perennially useful. For nearly three years we have staunchly supported the scheme of Registration, and indeed have so persistently preached its value and its necessity, that some of our readers, unaware of its immense importance, have considered that we were devoting too much time and space to the subject. If any of these, however, have read the paragraphs or leading articles which have appeared in the London papers during the last week upon the matter, they will probably have been converted to the complete propriety of our frequent references to the great reasons for, and the results of, Registration.

We have also, on many occasions, felt compelled to be polemical when we would fain have avoided wordy warfare. But we soon became aware of the real, though secret, reasons for the virulent opposition to, and misrepresentation of, the objects of the Association which has been made. And as no other Journal came forward to defend the Association we gladly did so, and as we are pleased to know with no inconsiderable success. For we have proofs in our possession that other pamphlets and articles attacking the Association would have been issued had we not so stringently criticised and pointed out the fallacies of the one, and the nonsensical illiterate absurdities of the other, which did appear. We heartily hope, however, that our fighting days in this matter are now over, and that the system of Registration which has been so well inaugurated will henceforth be carried on with an ever-increasing measure of success.

But at this juncture a short retrospect of the past history of the movement may be given with much advantage. About eighteen years ago one of the most far-sighted medical men now living, Sir HENRY ACLAND, in words which have been frequently quoted in these columns, suggested the advisability of forming General Registers of Nurses and Midwives. Even at that day this step appeared to the President of the General Medical Council—the Medical Parliament—to be

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