

# The Nursing Record

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

No. 9.

THURSDAY, MAY 31st, 1888.

VOL. I.

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**NOTICE.**—Should any difficulty arise in obtaining the "Nursing Record" through local news-agents, it is advisable to order it direct from the Publishers.

## EDITORIAL.

WE must divert this week from the subject of registration, which from its vast importance has necessarily engrossed so much of our attention, in order to consider another matter which is more momentous still, because more immediate in its results to nurses individually. We refer to the scheme known as the National Pension Fund for Nurses. Our readers will remember that when this was first made public we pointed out how completely erroneous and misleading the title was, for such an undertaking. We reminded the promoters that "pensions" were rewards freely given in return for good service rendered, either to the State—as, for example, by ministers, diplomatists, or members of the naval, military, or civil services—or to public companies or private individuals, who thus recompense their officials or dependants for long years and strength devoted to their service. We were then aware that, from the extraordinary flourish of trumpets made for months before the scheme was launched, by a certain periodical and a certain gentleman, hundreds of nurses were induced to believe that an organization was being formed to reward or pension those who had spent their lives in

tending the sick. We know that it was a rooted belief, for example, with many that pensions would be given to nurses—who while working had subscribed a small sum yearly to a general fund—when their health and strength gave way.

We shall never forget the bitter disappointment caused, therefore, when the scheme finally was made public, and it was discovered that the "duty of making provision for the noble women who devoted their lives to nursing," about which so much had been said and written, was to devolve entirely upon the noble women themselves. We sympathised thoroughly with the disappointment, all the keener, as it necessarily was, because the hopes had been so highly raised.

But taking the scheme as it has been issued, namely, as a commercial concern, many of our readers, we are told, object to the slight flavouring of charity which it contains. They naturally enough said—"If this is not to be a pension fund, but a class insurance association, why bring in the eleemosynary element at all?" We ourselves at once objected to it, however, from a purely commercial point of view. We quietly, and in all courtesy to the managers, pointed out that well-known, old established, and enormously wealthy life offices were prepared to give any women the same annuities for smaller rates of payment than this fund proposed to charge nurses.

We have, it should be unnecessary to say, nothing to gain either from the success or failure of the fund. We are in no way connected with, nor do we even know personally, the promoter nor the benevolent merchant princes who founded the fund. And here we cannot refrain from expressing our belief that it would be in better taste and more in accordance with truth and precedent if Mr. H. C. Burdett were to call himself the *promoter* of the fund, and cede the title of which he appears so enamoured to the four gentlemen who undoubtedly have *founded* it. Of course, if Mr. Burdett should give £5,000 or £10,000, or anything at all, to the scheme, that fact would be instantly made public, and then he would receive the same applause and would be entitled to the same title as Messrs. Rothschild, Hambro, Gibbs, and Morgan. At

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