

The Nursing Record

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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.

IN deference to the requests of several of our readers, we return to the consideration of the question which we discussed last week, so far as the space at our command would then permit,—how the richer public will probably, in future, obtain nursing assistance when overtaken by serious illness.

We concluded, from our examination of their past history and present condition, that "few Private Nurses of the future will live alone and practice on their own account, unless they are devoted solely to some one specialty, and are certain of employment from one or more medical men; because the expense of so living is too great, and the chances of otherwise obtaining employment too uncertain." We are glad to learn from those who have had practical experience of the

subject that they fully agree with our conclusions. From personal knowledge they emphasize the costliness of always paying for the same lodgings, whether occupying them or not, because it is essential to success that the Nurse's employers must always know where to find her. And, moreover, they completely corroborate the difficulty of obtaining regular, that is to say constant, employment, so that the expenses of living alone are vastly enhanced by this irregularity of work.

Now we find in the "leader" from our influential contemporary, the *Times*, which we reprinted in our columns last week, that it is recommended that the British Nurses' Association should establish "a central office, one which might be in telephonic or telegraphic communication with various homes or individuals, and through which the trouble now often experienced in finding a suitable Nurse might be saved." In other words, our contemporary advises the formation of one great Registry Office, for Nurses in search of definite employment, and for such of the public as urgently need a Nurse's help.

The idea is as clever as we should expect to find from such a source, but we venture to believe that it would require one great modification to make it practically useful to Nurses, or desirable from the public point of view. Because it presupposes, of course, that some at least, if not all, of the Nurses, whose names were on the list at the central office, would be living far or near in separate lodgings, a system which, we have already shown, is a very expensive one for them.

Next, we must presume that every Nurse, directly she obtained an engagement, would acquaint the central office instantly with the fact, because it must be apparent to all that, unless this rule were stringently enforced, the whole scheme must inevitably fall to the ground. Nay more, any Nurse on this list, and ready for work, would practically be unable to leave her house, because the office might telegraph to her at any moment; and in a case of urgency, such as the proposed office

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