

The Nursing Record

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

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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.

FOR various reasons, it appears to us to be desirable to define once more, with clearness and precision, the aims and objects of this journal upon various matters. In our first number, and on several occasions since then, we have frankly and fully avowed our position and our intentions with regard to the British Nurses' Association. We have pointed out, that as we were, in our entity, totally independent of that body, so we could, and would, express an entirely unbiassed opinion upon its progress and its proceedings. But at once we asserted our firm belief that the Association would probably prove of inestimable advantage to the great professional class, to whose interests we proposed solely and entirely to devote our pages. And we, therefore, declared freely and

openly, that as long as, in our judgment, the British Nurses' Association continued to act for the benefit of the Nursing profession, so long would we, with all our energy and all our strength, support its programme.

We had hoped—nay, we had even thought—that we had hitherto fulfilled our promise, not only in the letter, but in the spirit. But several of our readers have expressed a contrary opinion. They call our attention to numerous veiled and open attacks which have been made upon the Association by a certain periodical, and, with some show of reason, they demand to know why we have not replied to these onslaughts. We have, personally, the greatest respect for these correspondents, and, therefore, we propose at some length to review the matter.

The British Nurses' Association pledged itself, in its earliest days, to stand or fall upon one great scheme—the Legal Registration of Nurses—and declared that its primary object should be to obtain a Royal Charter for the attainment of this end. We realised instantly, as, perhaps, few of our readers even now can do, what a great task the Association had set itself to accomplish. Few Associations or Institutions, within our experience, have been able to obtain the crowning point of success in the shape of a Royal Charter, till many years have been spent in steady growth, and in unremitting effort. It costs, often, a large amount of money, and much influence in high places, to obtain this great and conclusive recognition of successful work. But we completely recognised the foresight, and the clear courage of the promoters of the Association in the course they instantly took upon this matter; for the more we considered the question, the more were we convinced that they would save themselves enormous difficulties in the future, by thus aiming at once at so high a standard.

But, as we have said, we also realised the enormous difficulties with which the Association would have to contend, before it could attain to this great measure of success. We argued thus.

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