

The Nursing Record

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

No. 30.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25th, 1888.

VOL. 1.

Contents.

EDITORIAL	409
PRIZE ESSAY—V.	411
HOSPITAL SKETCHES.—No. 8	415
OUR INSTITUTIONS	417
NURSING ECHOES	418
HOSPITAL INTELLIGENCE	420
"NURSING RECORD" BENEVOLENT FUND	421
WOMEN AND THEIR WORK	422
JEYES' COMPOUNDS VERSUS CARBOLIC ACID	423
CORRESPONDENCE	423
REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS	424
VACANT APPOINTMENTS, WANTED, &C.	424
COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY	424
NOTICES	424

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 find ourselves compelled to revert to a matter to which some months ago we devoted considerable attention—the National Pension Fund for Nurses. We may claim to have taken, and held, an unassailable position upon this subject. Because, before the original prospectus appeared, we extended a hearty welcome to the idea, and promised it our warmest support should it, upon examination, prove likely, in our judgment, to be beneficial to the members of the great profession which we claim to represent in the English journalistic world. When, however, the scheme was published, we refrained from any comment till we had taken most able and skilled advice upon it. Then, in discharge of our bounden duty to Nurses, we pointed out, in fair and open criticism, the weaknesses and the mistakes of the constitution adopted; and moreover showed that many of the statements made upon behalf of the Fund were most misleading and erroneous.

Rather than seem to be too condemnatory, we

abstained from using material in our possession, and merely by analysing the statements and pamphlets issued by the Fund itself, we proved that the scheme could not be financially successful. For we may recall to our readers' memories, that we showed that with such a limited *clientèle* the Fund could not be successfully carried on at all, because no English office, with all the population of the Empire to obtain proposals from, found a popular demand for the granting of annuities; that no Insurance Office, therefore, could pay its expenses of management which confined itself solely to such business; and that this certainty was all the more certain, if its possible area of supporters were restricted to such a small and poor class as Hospital workers. It is almost needless to add that if an Office cannot pay its expenses of management, its closure is only a question of time.

Next, we called attention to the fact that, though the Fund was possessed of £26,000, this sum, at the present rate of interest obtainable upon invested money, would not bring to the scheme a larger income than about £800 per annum. Placing the chief items of management each at a very moderate cost, we calculated that the Fund would require at least £1,000 per annum to conduct its business. This made it clear that not only would the whole income of the Fund be absorbed in the payment of expenses, but that a considerable sum besides would each year have to be provided from other sources for the same purposes. And this simple reasoning proved that the statement so frequently announced before our criticism appeared—that the Fund started with a *bonus* income of £1,000 a year—was altogether misleading and incorrect. We asked then from what source the necessary expenses of management were to be met, and we have received no answer to our straightforward and business-like question. We, therefore, deeply regret to observe that this fiction as to the existence of a bonus income has once more been paraded in the latest issued prospectus.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)