

# The Nursing Record

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

No. 46.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 1889.

VOL. 2.

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## EDITORIAL.

THE British Nurses' Association has now become such an acknowledged power, that some detailed commentary upon its constitution, the objects for which it has been founded, and the manner in which it proposes to accomplish its ends, may, it appears to us, with much advantage be given. We are the more encouraged to discuss this subject in these columns, because we are frequently receiving the most flattering proofs that the interest which we have consistently shown in the Association has been widely appreciated, and thus our foresight in at once recognising the great part that such a body would inevitably play in the Nursing world has been abundantly rewarded. We may quote in this connection the opinion

recently expressed by our contemporary, *Nursing Notes*, that this journal "seemed to be the organ of the Association." We would venture to express the devout wish that this may be one of those shadows that are cast by coming events, because nothing would give us greater pleasure than to act in this capacity, and to devote ourselves entirely to the interests of the Association. We feel confident that we could be of considerable service to it, and very materially advance its progress. We venture to commend the matter to the attention of the Committee of the Association, and meanwhile thank our contemporary for the implied compliment to ourselves.

In the consideration we now propose to give to the subject, we shall attempt to answer, in the first place, some of the many inquiries which we are constantly receiving anent the meaning and scope of the Association. For example, we have been frequently asked, What is the Association? what does it all mean? We have hitherto always advised such inquirers to apply to the Secretary for a copy of the admirable explanatory pamphlet upon the matter. But we find the question—and others like unto it—again and again repeated. So we would answer these queries thus. An Association is simply the banding together of a number of people desirous to attain certain ends, because by union greater strength is, of course, secured, and earlier success in obtaining their desires therefore rendered probable. Every trade and nearly every profession possesses an Association of its members, besides well-known examples for special ends, such as the British Association for the advancement of Science, the Press Association for the collection and diffusion of News, and hundreds of similar bodies. That, therefore, is what the British Nurses' Association is—a union of Medical men and Nurses—nothing more nor less.

Then many of our readers have written to ask why they must pass an examination before they can join the Association. How such an idea could have arisen, we cannot understand, because

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