

The Nursing Record

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

No. 47.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 1889.

VOL. 2.

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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.

IT is with very considerable reluctance that we again revert to the subject of the National Pension Fund for Nurses. But we do so, in consequence of a letter which we have received from a firm of solicitors upon the matter. In this it is written, that "we would point out that the statements in italics, on page 83 of the issue of the 7th inst., are absolutely untrue; and that there is no truth in the statement, 'that many Nurses have paid premiums to the National Pension Fund for Nurses for annuities of £3 or £4, or even smaller sums.'"

Now, the following are the sentences in italics, to which reference is made. "If you will inquire, you will find, or our information is all wrong, that many have paid premiums *for annuities of £3 or £4 a year, or even smaller sums.* You will

marvel at this, *for you well know that such small premiums will not make the Fund self-supporting, much less permit any bonus to be paid.*" These are the statements which are declared to be "absolutely untrue." Now, without attempting to imitate the discourtesy with which the affairs of this Fund are seemingly administered, we advise the solicitors in question to consult any independent actuaries or insurance office officials in the United Kingdom. Then they will not again assert that such small amounts as would be paid for such diminutive annuities as those we mention, could possibly produce sufficient profit even to pay the working expenses.

But, with reference to the other denial, we must accept in common courtesy their announcement that not *many* Nurses have paid premiums for annuities of £3 or £4, or even smaller sums. We have, of course, no power to inspect the books of the Pension Fund; and so we frankly and freely withdraw the word "many"—whatever our convictions upon the matter may be—and substitute for it the word *some*. We were quite willing to have let the matter rest. We had discharged our duty to Nurses—by showing them how unsuitable this Fund is for their needs; and to its four generous founders—by calling their attention to matters of which we felt confident they could not be aware.

An amusing effort has been made, we are told, to pretend that the adverse criticism the scheme has elicited is due to personal animus—perhaps the finest example of sublime egotism which we have ever observed. But as our statements have been called in question, we are compelled to return to the subject, and shall now do so again and again, till we have obtained satisfactory answers to the questions we shall ask.

We now take at hazard a document from a pile in front of us as we write. It is a printed form, issued by the Pension Fund, signed by Mr. Clifford; and it informs a certain Nurse that the Council has accepted her proposal, and will grant

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