

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.

WE desire to thank our numerous correspondents on the subject of the Pension Fund for their letters, and for their kind expressions towards us, which it is impossible for us to acknowledge individually. We are doing no more than our duty to Nurses, in the consideration which we are devoting to this matter, and nothing shall deter us from carrying out that duty, to the best of our ability, and with all our strength. At the same time we deeply regret the bitterness of some of the remarks made by our correspondents, and in common fairness desire to recall the attention of our readers to the facts of the case. We regret, as many say, that the hubbub and excitement, which was at first raised about the scheme, led many who expected to want Pen-

sions to believe that these would be provided for them by a grateful public, and that their disappointment has been correspondingly great, on finding that the Fund simply affords the machinery by which they may make that provision for themselves, in the most expensive conceivable way.

But it must never be forgotten that Nurses owe a deep debt of gratitude to Lord Rothschild, and Messrs. Morgan, Hambro, and Hucks-Gibbs for the ready munificence with which these gentlemen provided large funds, for the avowed purpose of assisting Nurses in old age or infirmity. It must be remembered that it is no fault of the donors that their gift has been so mis-directed. The cardinal mistakes which have been made result, we firmly believe, from sheer ignorance, not from any want of good intention. We are personally as unacquainted with the managers of this Fund as we are with the details of its management. Whose is the fault we cannot, therefore, say; but we can assert, as a demonstrable fact, that no scheme could have been evolved from the wildest nightmare more ludicrously useless to, and unsuitable for Nurses than this National Pension Fund.

We have proved that the chances are enormously against its success from a financial point of view. We have pointed out that Nurses who are so poor, so homeless, so friendless as to be likely to need a Pension at all in their old age, are precisely the women who will be least able to pay a sufficient sum, month after month, year after year, to secure themselves a Deferred Annuity. We have shown that there is only a small percentage of Nurses who now-a-days are so destitute; and that, though their need is very great, still—to put it on that common sense ground alone—they do not form a large class all told. Then we, and others, have proved the rank absurdity of employing the £26,000 given by the great merchant princes to organise the machinery of a new insurance office, to grant Annuities to, say, 1,500 women, who cannot afford to pay for them, and to whom—if they could do so—nearly every

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