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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 must digress this week from the important subject—the Pension Fund for Nurses—which, for some time, we have been continuously considering, to discuss a matter of immediate and practical importance. We must first apologise to our readers that, by a printer's error, the letter from Miss Wood, which they will find in our correspondence column this week, did not appear therein in our last issue, although our request to our esteemed colleague who writes the "Echoes," to draw attention to the subject, was then duly complied with.

The scheme to which Miss Wood invites our readers' earnest attention is one, we believe, eminently calculated to benefit that large class of Private Nurses who are at work upon their own

account. There has always been a certain number of these women, and probably, whatever advances are made in the professional knowledge and status of Nursing, there always will be some who are thus engaged. But the special trials, troubles, and drawbacks of the life led by such Nurses are not, and perhaps cannot be, realised by those who have not been brought into close contact with them, or who have not themselves lived the life and suffered its discomforts.

To fully and rightly estimate, therefore, the importance of the scheme to provide a Nurses' Hotel, let us briefly review the various ways in which—so far as the employées are concerned—Private Nursing is nowadays conducted. We may divide these most usefully into three classes, which we would summarise as the Proprietary, the Mutual, and the Independent. The first would comprise those Nurses who are working in connection with some Institution which belongs entirely to one or more individuals, and is worked merely as a business for their sole benefit; the second, those in which the worker pays a definite sum to the managers of the Home for her board and lodging when unemployed, and probably a fixed percentage on her earnings in addition, in return for work obtained through their recommendation; the third, those who live in their own rooms, and trust entirely to the support of Doctors to obtain more or less constant employment.

Now it is quite certain that, inasmuch as these three systems have been in constant operation for many years, each must have some advantages of its own, and equally certain that each must have some counterbalancing drawbacks, or it would be universally adopted. At first sight, the Proprietary system seems a most unfair and one-sided arrangement. That the Nurse should be sent hither and thither, allowed scanty rest and receive but slight consideration, should earn perhaps £100 per annum, and yet be paid only £20 to £25, has aroused much indignation, and loud out-

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