

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 have received a letter from a distinguished Provincial Surgeon, which appears in our correspondence column this week, anent the present and future regulations for the admission of Members to the British Nurses' Association. It shows that a considerable amount of misconception evidently still exists as to the responsibilities of Nurses with regard to the Association now, as well as the benefits which its Members will hereafter derive. It appears to us, therefore, that it will not be inopportune briefly to review these matters.

Nurses form a large and important class, but until a year ago they were entirely disunited. Each Nurse, as soon as she left the Hospital where she was trained, became at once an isolated unit in the

Nursing army—not only worked, but stood entirely alone—had no one to help or strengthen her professionally. Every calling or trade in which men are engaged has for long had a Union of its members, binding them together, and thus giving them individually greater influence, power, and prestige. Fifteen thousand Nurses might each be much respected and useful, but no one could alone do anything to help another, or advance the status of her profession. This is the object in brief, we take it, of the British Nurses' Association—to draw together all Trained Nurses for their mutual aid and assistance, and for the advancement in every way of their knowledge and work.

And it must be remembered that this Union is one of the first that has been formed in this country among female workers, that it is warmly supported and partly directed by leading members of the Medical profession, and that a daughter of our revered Queen at once became its President. The high position which the Association has therefore taken among other similar bodies is apparent; and its success has been so rapid as to be entirely beyond all precedent. We are informed that in the first twelve months of its existence it enrolled two thousand four hundred Members in the United Kingdom, and that Branches were authorised to be formed in most of the Colonies. We learn also that an active discussion is now proceeding in America, upon the advisability of forming an American Nurses' Association upon the model of the British. We may well marvel then at the progress of the Association.

Its object being to unite all women engaged in nursing the sick, it most wisely made the rules for the admission of Members at first very liberal, all who have been nursing for three years—whether trained or untrained—and can produce satisfactory proofs of character, being eligible for election till the last day of this year. It is an open secret, and is pursuant to the plan adopted by all other professional associations, that the admission of Members after this year of grace will gradually be

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