

# The Nursing Record

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

No. 56.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25th, 1889.

VOL. 2.

## Contents.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| EDITORIAL ... ..                            | 257 |
| A GUIDE TO MEDICAL AND SURGICAL NURSING—    |     |
| CHAPTER XIII. ... ..                        | 259 |
| BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION ... ..          | 262 |
| NURSING ECHOES ... ..                       | 264 |
| THIS WEEK'S VACANCIES ... ..                | 265 |
| HOSPITAL INTELLIGENCE ... ..                | 266 |
| EXTERIORS AND INTERIORS.—MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL | 266 |
| "NURSING RECORD" BENEVOLENT FUND ... ..     | 267 |
| WOMEN AND THEIR WORK ... ..                 | 267 |
| NOTES ON USEFUL PREPARATIONS, INVENTIONS,   |     |
| NOVELTIES, &C. ... ..                       | 268 |
| CORRESPONDENCE ... ..                       | 270 |
| REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS ... ..            | 272 |
| VACANT APPOINTMENTS, WANTED, &C. ... ..     | 272 |
| COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY ... ..              | 272 |
| NOTICES ... ..                              | 272 |

## EDITORIAL.

A FORTNIGHT ago we devoted some consideration to a very important matter—the Clinical instruction of Nurses. We proved how greatly the knowledge of the signs and progress of disease added to the usefulness of the Nurse to the Doctor by enhancing the value of her observations and reports to him. Our discussion of the subject, however, reminded us of the extraordinary lack of uniformity which even at the present day exists in the character and length of the training imparted in the different Nursing Schools.

To begin with, although the importance of clinical teaching cannot be disputed, we believe we are correct in stating that there are not three Hospitals in the country where such tuition is bestowed. The value of an insight into at least Elementary Anatomy and Physiology is now perhaps universally admitted, but a wonderful diversity exists in the amount of instruction given at different places, while it is well known that there are many others where Nurses are nominally edu-

cated, and even Certificated, where no Lectures, good, bad, or indifferent, are delivered at all. The terms and manner of work again differ in different Hospitals as widely as the poles. In some, one year's training is considered sufficient; others exact two; and still others insist upon the absolute necessity of three years' probation.

Verily, as Mrs. Bedford Fenwick remarked in a recent article on the Nursing Profession, in a well-known contemporary, "The whole matter is in a state of complete chaos." We propose, therefore, as other demands upon our space permit, to discuss the subject in its many aspects, and attempt to evolve some definite ideas as to the training of a Nurse; what length of time it should extend over, and how that time can best be utilised; what are the subjects upon which she should be instructed, and how and when this instruction should be given. Finally, we shall arrive at the consideration of the methods in which the Nurse's knowledge of her work can best be tested, and how her efficiency can most suitably be certified.

It is truly a strange fact that in every one of these particulars such complete want of organisation should be found in a profession which is taking a high place in public estimation. Turning, however, to other callings, we find much to comfort and console us in this matter. In 1815, for example, we find that the Medical profession was in much the same chaotic state, so far as the education of its members was concerned. That year saw the first serious effort made to introduce a uniformity of system, and thereafter it became necessary for every one desirous of becoming a Doctor to prove, by passing a Preliminary Examination, that he had received a liberal education. Year by year the subjects of this Examination have been increased in number and in severity, until now it supplies no mean test of general knowledge. About twenty years later there was instituted a first examination for those desirous of studying Law, and in like manner this now closes the portals of the legal profession against all but

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)