

The Nursing Record

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

No. 60.

THURSDAY, MAY 23rd, 1889.

VOL. 2.

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OUR ALBUM.



MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE (1854).

EDITORIAL.

WE have now arrived at the final division of the subject, which, for the last few weeks, we have been consecutively considering. It only remains for us to discuss the important questions of how, when, and where a Nurse's knowledge of her work is to be tested, and the best manner in which, presuming her efficiency to be fully proved, she is to be certificated. We have seen in how many ways the closest analogy exists between Doctors and Nurses; but now we approach matters wherein their cases are widely dissimilar. There are nineteen or twenty Colleges, Halls, or Universities in the United Kingdom, each and every one of which has the power by law to examine Medical Students, and to certify their ability to practise their profession. Some of these, of course, are more advanced than others in the standard to which they expect candidates to reach; and, therefore, in the eyes alike of the public and the Medical profession, some are more highly esteemed than others. But, be it remembered, all have the legal privilege of making Doctors.

On the other hand, however, the English law to-day does not even recognise such a calling as Nursing the sick, and through the length and breadth of the land there is not one single solitary Institution which possesses the power of granting a State diploma, degree, or license to a Nurse. There are, perhaps, a hundred private or public Institutions which grant their Nurses certificates; but there are also a hundred thousand ladies who grant "characters" to their cooks, and in the eye of the law both kinds of documents are precisely on the same level—mere private and personal testimony.

Now it needs but slight knowledge of history, or of current events, to clearly foresee two things. It is quite certain that Registration, under the scheme of the British Nurses' Association, will instantly lift Nursing up to the level of a legally recognised profession, by conferring for the

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