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THE
Nursing Record

EVERY SATURDAY
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AND

The Hospital World.

"QUI NON
PROFICIT DEFICIT."

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Editorial.

FACILE EST DESCENSUS AVERNI.

THE annual meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association was held at the Imperial Institute on Saturday last, when the usual amenities between the officials took place. With these we are not concerned, the annual butter-parties of the R.B.N.A. officials being somewhat nauseating to outsiders.

We must, however, draw attention to an announcement made at this meeting with regard to the formation of colonial branches, namely, that "in South Australia very promising work was being done under the Chairmanship of Lady Tennyson." For years this journal has stood alone in protesting against the unprofessional line adopted by the present officials of the R.B.N.A. We have pointed out that the policy inaugurated by Dr. Bezly Thorne and his colleagues made for the social advancement of the medical officers rather than for the professional welfare of the nurse-members, and we have incurred the wrath of these gentlemen for our plain-spokenness on this matter. It nevertheless cannot be gainsaid that, but for the medium of the Nurses' Association, the hon. medical officers would not, from their own social position, have been brought into that contact with royal and aristocratic persons which is a lucrative asset in the

formation of a fashionable practice. The present announcement of the formation of a Colonial Branch, under the chairmanship of Lady Tennyson—who has also been made a Vice-President, a position carrying with it more power in the Association than has been accorded to any qualified Matron—supports our contention that the R.B.N.A. is being worked on the insecure and undesirable basis of social patronage, rather than by fostering the professional self-respect and independence of its members. Would the hon. medical officers who so lightly place the nurses of South Australia under the chairmanship of an unprofessional person, in their professional Association, invite Lord Tennyson to become the chairman of a branch of the British Medical Association in the same Colony? We know that none but a medical man would be appointed to this honourable position. The plain facts of the case are that the professional status of the nurses in the Royal British Nurses' Association is persistently depreciated by the hon. officers, who have deliberately set aside the lines on which it was founded, and thus deprived the members of their rightful liberty. The principle of State Registration has been denied; the Register issued by the Association has been discontinued; under the new Bye-laws all real power of self-

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