

**"To have a body rich in health,  
Is to possess the greatest wealth."**



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Dr. ANDREW WILSON, F.R.S.E., &c.

THE  
**Nursing Record**

EVERY SATURDAY  
ONE PENNY.

AND

**The Hospital World.**

"QUI NON  
PROFICIT DEFICIT."

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**Editorial.**

**THE COMMON COURTESIES OF LIFE.**

**D**O the officials of public institutions systematically answer letters? This is a question brought up in our foreign letter from Tasmania in another column. Speaking with an intimate knowledge of hospitals for the last quarter of a century, we have no hesitation in saying that much more care and method are necessary in this respect. We will quote two instances in proof of this statement.

(1.) In the *Nursing Directory*, issued under the authority of the Matrons' Council, year after year an asterisk appears against the regulations of the Westminster Hospital nurse training school, which denotes that the information published has not been officially verified, and a note is appended to say that the details published are all that the editors have been able to obtain. The reason for this note is that though an official request for information was addressed for many years to the authorities of the hospital, not only has this not been supplied, but no reply has been received to a courteous request for information which it is desired to obtain for the public benefit.

(2.) When the Society of American Women

in London entertained the delegates who returned from the International Nurses' Congress in America last year at an At Home at Prince's, the Committee wrote to the Matrons of the leading training schools in London, inviting them to be present on this interesting occasion. Some of them accepted the invitation, others courteously expressed their regret at being unable to do so, but several took no notice whatever of the letter of the Society, a fact which elicited from one member of the Committee the remark, "It does seem a most extraordinary thing that women holding the positions of heads of your leading training schools should not be acquainted with the ordinary usages of polite society," to which another lady present replied, "If you had as wide an acquaintance with the habits of some Hospital Matrons in this respect as I have, you would not be surprised at their neglect to answer letters."

We think that all whose work brings them much into contact with Matrons of hospitals will bear out our assertion that it is by no means infrequent, even for official letters to remain unanswered. The result is that a bad impression is given, not only of the manners of the Matron concerned, but also of the

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