

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.

IN our consideration of the wide subject of Registration, we have now arrived, as we explained last week, at the pleasant, because personal, aspect of the question; and we have shown how enormously beneficial in many ways such a system legally conducted must prove both to Nursing and to Nurses.

To-day it becomes our duty to show how it will affect Medical Men, and next week we hope to conclude this branch of the subject, by pointing out the manifold advantages which the Public will obtain from the recognition, organization, and control by the State, of the Nursing Profession of the future.

As regards the results of Registration of trained Nurses to members of the medical fraternity, we have no necessity—as in each case hitherto considered we have been compelled to do—to begin

from the very foundations. There is no need for us, for example, to discuss any longer the advantages of State recognition to those engaged in any skilled work, nor the special benefits they, and the public, derive from their compulsory Registration; because, in the case of the medical profession itself, we have the clearest proof and evidence of the utility of this system. For it must be remembered that for more than three hundred years Medicine has been recognised by the law of England as a distinct profession, and during that time many Acts of Parliament or Royal Charters have been passed or granted, defining old privileges or enacting new regulations in reference to its members; but it is only for the last thirty years that Registration of medical men has been in force. From which simple fact it becomes abundantly evident that a learned profession can be constituted, can exist for centuries, can create for itself a great and glorious history, stamping its impress indelibly on the records of the national life and progress, without requiring or receiving Registration of its component workers.

Yet, despite its grand past history, its flourishing present state, and a future which promised to surpass in usefulness all its previous advances, it was felt in 1858, both by the advisers of the Crown and by medical men themselves, that a system of Registration should be enforced by law upon all members of the craft. This was accordingly enacted by Parliament, and has ever since been carried out, under the direction and control of the General Medical Council, a body specially created for this purpose.

Registration, then, does for medical men what it will do for nurses—act as a State guarantee of the efficiency and knowledge of all those whose names are placed upon the Register, and so provide everyone with a speedy and a certain means of distinguishing between the true and the false members of the calling.

Of course, however, it will do more for Nurses than it did for Doctors, for the simple reason that the latter already were organized as members of a distinct profession, as we have previously said, whereas the

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