

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.

WE must, this week, digress from the consideration of Registration, and of the Pension Fund, to a matter of special Nursing interest, but of much less complexity. We must divert alike from elaborate elucidation of the one, and careful criticism of the other, to a matter either of terrible tragedy or of sublime comedy. Our readers may perchance remember that in our tenth number, our greatly esteemed contributor, who writes the "Nursing Echoes," called attention to a paragraph, which had been going the round of the lay press about that time, telling how a Nurse, named Finns, had sucked a tracheotomy tube clear. It had been inserted a few hours previously in a child under her charge, suffering from diphtheria, and so, of course, her action saved the patient for the time from choking.

From wide practical knowledge our colleague added: "I hope Nurse Finns took the common-sense precaution I have always seen taken in such a case, of rinsing the mouth out at once and frequently with 1 in 100 solution of carbolic acid. That done, it is rare to hear of any harm resulting. All the same, I would not advise any Nurse to do such a thing. It is quite possible to use too much suction force in such a case, and do irreparable damage; and besides that, when tracheotomy is done for diphtheria, it is said to be a last resource, and if the trachea cannot be cleared by a feather passed through the inner canula, no amount of suction which is safe can, I believe, loosen and remove the tenacious mucus which is choking the poor little sufferer. Still, Nurse Finns undoubtedly thought that by acting as she did she was risking her life, but could help her patient; so she deserves full credit for her plucky attempt to do so."

Every Trained Nurse of any experience, and every medical man, would, of course, understand and appreciate these sensible remarks and useful hints. But after the lapse of some weeks, a contemporary, which, with modesty rare in these times, terms itself "a weekly institutional journal"—whatever that means—"of science, medicine, nursing, and philanthropy," refers to the matter in that small portion of its space called the "Nursing Mirror." This Nursing supplement, we believe, has only lately been added, and generally consists of articles and letters from various, evidently uneducated, people, who write to say that, in their opinion, "the use of italics tends to the development of hysteria," or that "a Nurse in a private family should not become inebriated with the butler;" or gives the views of a patient about Nurses "getting husbands," followed week after week by thrilling paragraphs in reply, headed by such awe-inspiring words as "Nurse Brown speaks," "A word from Wales," "A student speaks." The latter, by-the-by, tells a horror stricken world that "James Macfarlane has caught it hot," and so on, and on. We draw special attention to this ridiculous rubbish, because, in the first

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