

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 revert, according to our promise of last week, to the consideration of the article upon the Registration of Nurses which we were then discussing. We pointed out that our contemporary, after it had devoted about one hundred and fifty lines of its space to enunciating its complete disapproval of any system of General Registration of any kind, concluded, in the most Hibernian manner, by admitting, that "If, in the course of years, it should be found that the general average of culture and practical skill is so high as to make a Central Register possible and desirable, such a Register will, doubtless, be established." Precisely! This is exactly the view we have ourselves, from the first, strongly and consistently held and propounded. We are glad to find that we have converted our contemporary to our belief; because, from the moment that its own

scheme of Registration ended in such a "fiasco," as the *Lancet* expressed it, it has strenuously endeavoured to "make believe" that the grapes were very, *very* sour.

It is most important that the past history of this matter should be clearly understood, and remembered by all.

Last autumn the Hospitals Association issued a circular to Nurses, offering to register anyone who had had one year's training, as a Trained Nurse, provided that she paid half-a-crown. This was such a glaring attempt, on the one hand, to deceive the public, by pretending that a Nurse could be considered trained at the end of one year; and, on the other hand, to depreciate Nurses who had been trained well, and for lengthened periods, down to one dead level of inferiority and ignorance, that many leading members of the Medical and Nursing world at once aroused themselves, and acted with the utmost promptitude and success, to avert the threatened evil. They formed the British Nurses' Association upon the same lines as other professional Associations and Unions had previously been formed—to protect the interests, and to advance the improvement, of Nurses. But, beyond this, it was intended to ensure that the members of the Nursing profession of the future should remain under the supervision of medical men, as they have always hitherto been; and should not, by means of a ridiculous Registry Office, be welded together into a united body, under the control of any self-seeking outsider, who might happen to become the manager thereof. The British Nurses' Association then, at once determined, as its primary object, to seek a Royal Charter to legalise the Registration of Nurses.

The Hospitals Association, as a feeble counterblast, next appointed a Sub-Committee, to consider the advisability of a Central Register being formed—three months, be it noted, after it had itself openly offered to register Nurses. This Sub-Committee reported its conclusions in a document,

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