

The Nursing Record

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

No. 22.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30th, 1888.

VOL. 1.

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NOTICE.—Should any difficulty arise in obtaining the "Nursing Record" through local newspapers, it is advisable to order it direct from the Publishers.

EDITORIAL.

IT has been our disagreeable duty on several occasions, during the brief existence of this journal, to call attention to the unusual attitude of antagonism adopted towards us by a contemporary—antagonism evinced by frequent misstatements concerning our position and our views. Shortly after our first number appeared, we were inferentially declared to be one and indivisible with the British Nurses' Association, whereas we were well aware that our contemporary had made diligent inquiries previously, and had been informed on the best authority of our complete independence of that Association. As to the statements we have made upon various matters, our contemporary's conduct has been still more gross. In the discharge of our bounden duty to Nurses, as the only journal at present solely devoted to their interests, we have pursued a

perfectly consistent and straightforward attitude with regard to the National Pension Fund. In our first number we drew attention to the then expected appearance of the scheme, and promised it our cordial support, should it promise to be, in our judgment, beneficial to Nurses. It was duly issued, and at once its fallacies were apparent to us, as they were to all business men, and still more to all professional women. Unaware, however, at that time, of the intention of the *Lancet* to employ the services of a well-known actuary in examining, and reporting on, the scheme, we felt it to be our duty to pursue that course. We submitted the Tables and the Prospectus to a gentleman, connected with one of the largest and most successful insurance offices in the Kingdom, and published articles from his pen, which showed, conclusively, that one office, at least, offered and gave annuities at smaller cost than the Pension Fund proposed to ask from Nurses. We, moreover, had prepared for us a Table, which showed that seven other large offices all quoted about the same rates as the above. We refrained from publishing this, or from saying more on this side of the question, because the figures we gave were never disputed, and because the *Lancet* so conclusively proved its contention in the same direction.

But there were many other matters connected with this Fund, which we considered eminently unsatisfactory, and, without the least prejudice, we commented, one by one, upon these. We pointed out the misnomer of its Title—that, as "Pension" signified an annuity, freely given without payment on the part of the recipient, it was clearly misleading to give that name to a Fund, whose benefits were only obtainable by a series of regular payments, extending over a longer or shorter term of years. We obtained from the eminent authority whom we consulted, other facts and figures, which conclusively proved the unbusinesslike character of the scheme. But we were so anxious not to appear antagonistic, that

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