

The Nursing Record

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

No. 23.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 1888.

VOL. 1.

Contents.

EDITORIAL	...	...	...	...	...	297
THE NURSING OF SICK CHILDREN.	By Miss	...	...	...	...	299
CATHERINE J. WOOD	...	...	...	...	...	301
IS A GENERAL REGISTER FOR NURSES DESIRABLE?	...	...	...	...	...	304
MEMORABILIA	...	...	...	...	...	305
THE "NURSING RECORD" BENEVOLENT FUND	...	...	...	...	...	305
OUR PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITIONS	...	...	...	...	...	306
NURSING ECHOES	...	...	...	...	...	308
HOSPITAL INTELLIGENCE	...	...	...	...	...	310
WOMEN AND THEIR WORK	...	...	...	...	...	312
CORRESPONDENCE	...	...	...	...	...	312
VACANT APPOINTMENTS, WANTED, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	312
COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY	...	...	...	...	...	312
NOTICES	...	...	...	...	...	312

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 columns our readers will this week find that we have reprinted a pamphlet, which has been lately published by Mr. Bonham-Carter, the well-known and greatly respected Secretary of the Nightingale Fund. In our nineteenth number we promised to do this, "because it appears to be just, reasonable, and right, that in a matter of such great moment, everyone who has a right to be heard, should have the widest opportunity of enunciating his views." We proceeded, however, as follows:—"At the same time, we feel constrained at once to say that, in our humble judgment, not only has Mr. Bonham-Carter completely failed to grasp the situation, but also that we shall be able to conclusively prove, to all unprejudiced minds, from his own words, that a General Register for Nurses is desirable, and, moreover, urgently called for." That is the duty we have set before ourselves, and we may be

permitted to express our sincere pleasure at the opportunity thus afforded to us, for the first time, of discussing this matter with some one whom we can thoroughly respect, to whose services to Nurses and Nursing we can venture to accord unstinting admiration, and who stands, we feel quite convinced, on the same great platform as ourselves, in the desire to advance the best interests of Nurses and their calling.

We pass, therefore, to our task with more pleasure, and yet with a feeling of greater responsibility, than we have yet experienced in debating the subject, because, while we are confident that Mr. Bonham-Carter is an opponent "worthy of our steel," we also know that he is so honourable and straightforward, that if we can prove that his views are erroneous, he will at once withdraw them. And desiring the success of our cause, we are naturally anxious to prove our contentions, knowing that he would then range himself as an invaluable ally upon our side, in the great struggle we are now waging against crass ignorance of the subject, combined with unscrupulous opposition to any attempt at reform. We ask our readers to read this pamphlet with great care, as we shall recur to its consideration week by week, till we have devoted to it that complete and careful criticism which, in our judgment, it deserves.

It will be observed, then, that the arguments are arranged mainly under three heads, defined in the following paragraph:—"Now I venture to think, that when we come to look more closely into the matter, we shall find some patent reasons for concluding (1) that the case of Nurses is not analogous to that of Doctors; (2) that a General Register will not afford, and is not capable of affording, either to Doctors or to the public, the information which employers of Nurses ought to require; and (3), lastly, that it may tend rather to lower than to raise the position of Nurses."

We directly traverse each of these points, but the space at our command will only permit us to

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)