

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.

REVERTING to the consideration of Mr. Bonham-Carter's important pamphlet upon Registration, which we printed and discussed in our last issue, we now propose to criticise the first of the arguments therein debated. In the author's words it is thus stated:—"Now I venture to think that when we come to look more closely into the matter, we shall find some patent reasons for concluding that the case of Nurses is not analogous to that of Doctors"—in this matter of Registration, that is to say. We turn to the pamphlet to find by what reasonings this assertion is supported. If our readers will refer to page 301 of our last week's issue, they will find that five paragraphs are devoted to this side of the question. The first is as follows:—"In the case of the medical profession, the Register is merely a Certificate of the candidate having passed certain examinations, after a certain

period of technical training, and it is supposed to be required, partly on the ground that the public require protection by precluding unskilled persons, quacks and others, under penalties, from practising medicine at all, and partly on the ground that Medical men having to perform certain public duties imposed upon them by law, a legal certificate of their qualifications is expedient."

Mr. Bonham-Carter surely will confess that there is the closest possible analogy between Medical men and Nurses in all the above respects save the last. He will admit that a woman, to become a Trained Nurse, requires "a certain period of technical training"; and that unless she passes an examination upon the subjects she has learnt anything or not. So far then as the necessity of a technical training, and the expediency of an examination to test the knowledge acquired thereby, is concerned, there is the closest similarity between the members of the Medical and Nursing professions.

Next, Mr. Bonham-Carter will allow that "the public require protection" against unskilled and ignorant women pretending to be Nurses, fully as much as against unskilled and ignorant men assuming to be Doctors. And if, as he admits, legal Registration affords this protection in the latter case, how can it be contended that it would not give the like security in the former? If that is so, it is a pertinent reflection—What a vast responsibility must attach to anyone who endeavours to prevent or even retard the formation of a Nursing Register!

The second paragraph reads thus:—"The qualification for the Register is based mainly, if not solely, on the result of examination, and affords a guarantee only of a certain amount of professional knowledge and skill, coupled with some evidence of previous good conduct, or rather, absence of bad conduct. The machinery of a General Register is not and does not pretend to be adapted for attaining any result of a more thorough or

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