

# 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.

WHEN we first noticed Mr. Bonham-Carter's pamphlet upon Registration, in our 19th number, while doing full justice to the great work he has done for Nursing, we felt "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." We discussed, in our 23rd number, the present position of Registration, and showed clearly what an enormous force of professional feeling, Medical and Nursing, was being evinced in favour of its speedy adoption. Mr. Bonham-Carter's casual reference to the fact showed conclusively how little he was aware of this state of affairs, and

proved our first point—that he had failed to grasp the situation.

In our 24th number, we took into consideration his first argument—that the case of Nurses is not analogous to that of Doctors. We showed that nothing could possibly exhibit clearer points of similarity than the manner in which the question and details of Registration affected Medical men and Nurses. Now, inasmuch as Mr. Bonham-Carter used his argument, of the dissimilarity between the cases of the two professions, to show that a General Register for Nurses was not to be desired, so a close analogy having been shown to exist, it clearly follows, even upon his own ground, that a General Register for Nurses must be desirable. And if in a matter of such great moment, a thing be desirable, it is surely urgently called for.

Once more, in our 25th and 26th numbers, we discussed most carefully the second argument Mr. Bonham-Carter had advanced—that the Register would be valueless, because it could not guarantee the "moral qualities" of any Nurse whose name it contained. We then proved, not only how unnecessary, but also how absurd it was, to expect a Register to guarantee "moral qualities." But the mere fact that the argument was gravely brought forward, and supported at considerable length, proves once more the expression of our opinion before quoted. And once more the argument having been shown to be faulty and deficient, its contention plainly falls to the ground. From which, again, the distinct inference would be that a General Register for Nurses is desirable.

And so now we come to the third, and weakest, argument of all, which is given in the following words:—"Now, I venture to think, that when we come to look more closely into the matter, we shall find some patent reasons for concluding . . . . lastly, that it (Registration) may tend rather to lower than to raise the position of Nurses." We turn with considerable curiosity to see what proofs are adduced in support of this

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