

# 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 published a letter some three weeks ago from Miss J. Wilson, who is well known for her untiring efforts, both to improve the Nursing in Workhouse Infirmaries, and to secure the Registration of Midwives. She wrote in reference to a paragraph which had appeared in our columns, "comparing the Registration of Nurses to that of Midwives," and to which she took some exception upon the ground that she considered the legal recognition of the latter of greater "urgency" than that of the former. On turning to the paragraph in question, we found that it was written in reference to a review in a contemporary, which, once a month, announces that its great object is to procure the Registration of Midwives. But its reviewer actually announced that a pamphlet, which had then just appeared, gave him the first glimmering of light upon the subject of Registra-

tion which he had been able to obtain. The implied compliment to the journal for which he wrote was irresistibly ludicrous; and, if it were possible, this amusement was enhanced by the fact, that the pamphlet which lightened the reviewer's understanding was entirely and utterly devoted to stating that Registration for Nurses was wrong, and unnecessary, and mischievous. Now it is, perhaps, unnecessary to state the old truth, that a principle is the same and unalterable, under every condition, however much its details may be changed by different circumstances. Life is life, whether in man or a flower, though its conditions, of course, are nearly exactly opposite in every particular. Motion is movement, whether its exponent be a fowl, a fish, or a football. A pump is a pump, whether on a village green, or in a hypodermic syringe. So a Legal Register is a book, the rectitude of which is guaranteed by the State, whether its pages contain the names of Sailors, Soldiers, Clergymen, or Doctors. Consequently, we hope our contemporary will remember, in future, that to be unable to understand Registration of one class, is equivalent to a failure altogether to grasp the meaning of the principle of Registration. We will not say more upon the subject, for we feel sure this amusing oversight could only have occurred by the merest chance.

But Miss Wilson's letter raises a question which we consider deserves our closest attention. Her sole contention seems to be, that the Registration of Midwives is a more "urgent" matter than that of Nurses.

Now, supposing for one moment that this were admitted, we should instantly contend that, even if it were so, it would not by one iota alter the necessity, which would still remain, for the Registration of Nurses to be effected as soon as possible. But, as a matter of fact, we do not, for one single moment, admit Miss Wilson's argument. We entirely sympathise with her in her earnest, energetic work for Midwives; but we have good reason to know that the cause we are advocating

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