

The Nursing Record

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

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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.

WE recapitulated last week some of the objections we have, from time to time, raised in these columns to the present constitution of the National Pension Fund for Nurses. We have been impelled to refer again to this subject—though we had fully intended not to have noticed it further—by certain most misleading and most extraordinary statements, made recently at a meeting held at St. Thomas's Hospital upon its behalf. The statements which are erroneous or misleading are more than we can devote space enough to notice, analyse, and confute, and we must therefore restrict our remarks only to those which can be disposed of in fewest words.

In the official account of the meeting in question, it was stated that "several delegates were present from provincial Hospitals, Lincoln and Gloucester being especially well represented, but through a misunderstanding they did not speak." Our attention has been called to this statement by a correspondent, who writes: "Not a single Nurse was present at the meeting from the Lincoln Hospital." If Lincoln was "especially well represented" by nobody, we not only have at once a simple physical explanation for the fact that the delegates from provincial Hospitals "did not speak," but the natural inference also is, that every other provincial Hospital in the United Kingdom was "represented" by less than nobody.

Next, it is actually announced that "Nurses should join at once, by paying one shilling a month under the tables in the new prospectus, and then decide at their leisure how much more they could afford to pay in. The great thing was to become members of the Fund, so as to protect themselves in case of illness or misfortune." Now, in all solemnity, we appeal to the honourable and the benevolent gentlemen who have given their names as members of the Council of this Fund. Are they aware that this statement has been made? We cannot, for one single moment, believe that they will approve, or even condone it when it is brought to their notice. For what does it mean? We turn to the "new prospectus," and we find that there are only two tables given therein in reference to the shilling a month system, and both these are for annuities to commence at the age of sixty. In one, the premiums are "not returnable under any conditions;" in the other, they will be returned, and of course any Nurse who used this system would subscribe under the latter condition. A Nurse aged thirty, then, by paying in a shilling every month, for thirty years, would at the end secure an annuity of two pounds and sixpence. But, in the first place, not a word is said as to her receiving any sick-pay; and, in

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