

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 publish in another column communications which tell a simple tale of sympathy elicited by suffering. And yet the facts of the case, and the lessons which they teach, appear to our minds so important, that we cannot refrain from drawing special attention to them. About three months ago, a fire broke out early one morning in a house in Wigmore Street, an upper room in which was occupied by an aged and bed-ridden lady. She was attended by a Nurse, Jessie Bayliss by name, who appears excellently well and bravely to have done her duty. When the alarm of fire was raised, it seems that the Nurse was one of the first to be awakened. She ran out of her room, found the stairs still passable,

and could easily have escaped down them, as did the other occupants of the house. But her duty called her to see to her patient's safety also, and so, without another thought, she returned to her, attempted first to lift and carry her downstairs, but found the task beyond her strength.

Meantime, the fire had rapidly gained ground, the room became filled with smoke, and as the Nurse became asphyxiated, she remembers opening the window, and nothing more. The horror-stricken spectators in the street tell how she appeared at the open window, and in obedience to their cries climbed out, and after hanging to the window-ledge for a few moments, fell on to a parapet, striking herself heavily ere she fell into the street, where we believe she was caught in an outstretched blanket. She was removed to the Middlesex Hospital, and was found to have not only broken her leg, but to have sustained—as may well be imagined—a severe shock to her nervous system.

The facts of the case so appealed to the kind-hearted feelings of the Chaplain of the Middlesex Hospital, that he felt constrained to write a letter which appeared in several of our daily contemporaries, asking for public assistance to replace the many little valuables and the wardrobe which the Nurse had lost in the conflagration. We are glad to learn that in response to this appeal he received more than £60. How wisely and judiciously this sum has been expended upon Nurse Bayliss's behalf, our readers will learn from Mr. Brindley's communication to us this week. But the Chaplain's appeal attracted the notice of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who at once addressed a letter to us, asking for small subscriptions from Nurses, so as to replace the watch and chain which had been lost, and the invaluable importance of which to a Private Nurse, of course all professional people know. As might have been expected, this new appeal was quickly responded to; and as will be seen from the letter addressed to us this week from this well-known lady, not only has the

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