

# 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.

THERE has occurred, during the past week, an event, the full importance of which to members of the Nursing profession can perhaps scarcely yet awhile be rightly estimated. We refer to the *Conversazione* given at the Grosvenor Gallery, on Friday last, by the British Nurses' Association. Careless observers might perhaps wonder how such a mere festivity, on however grand a scale, could have any other meaning or result than that of a passing pleasure; and it requires us, indeed, to look below the surface before we even begin to comprehend its vast significance.

Let it, however, be remembered that this Association was only founded on December 7, 1887, and did not enrol its first adherent till February 13th of this present year; that the great majority of its members are Nurses, paying only an annual subscription of half-a-crown a year; that the

Grosvenor Gallery is not only perhaps the best, but also, of course, one of the most expensive places in London at which to hold an evening entertainment, especially when its walls are hung with priceless works of pictorial art, as was the case last week. Then, to begin with, one is forced to the conclusion that the Association must be powerful, both in numbers and money, beyond all expectation—when its short existence of ten months is considered—to propose to hold a gathering of its members, not only at such considerable expense, but in rooms also where hundreds must be present, in order to prevent the appearance of a *fiasco* from mere emptiness of space. And, therefore, when such a wonderful meeting has been actually held, as took place on the occasion to which we refer, it is rendered absolutely certain that the Association does possess the inferred strength.

But, in the next place, the *Conversazione* will be an historical event, for all future time, to Nurses, because it is the first occasion upon which they have come forward before the people of this country as members of a distinct corporate body. It signifies, therefore, practically, so far as the population of the Empire are concerned, the birth of a new and hitherto unrecognised power—the Nursing profession of the future. Hitherto Nurses have, doubtless, been individually winning their way steadily in public confidence, but in future they will all be classed in the public mind as members, or not, of an Association, which has incontestably proved itself strong and successful.

We observe that several of our most influential contemporaries in the London Press have at once recognised the new state of things; and, therefore, we are well aware that it is only a question of a short time before the public mind is impregnated with the knowledge, that Nursing is now a skilled work, and that Nurses have united—as members of all other professions have previously united—together for mutual help, and for the advancement of their calling.

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