

**"To have a body rich in health,
Is to possess the greatest wealth."**



**"The richest in flesh-forming and energy-producing constituents.
There is No Better Food."**

Dr. ANDREW WILSON, F.R.S.E., &c.

THE
Nursing Record

EVERY SATURDAY
ONE PENNY

AND

The Hospital World.

"QUI NON
PROFICIT DEFICIT."

EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

No. 736.

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1902.

VOL. XXVIII

Editorial.

THE NURSING OF THE MIDDLE CLASSES.

IT is happily becoming increasingly unusual to see in the reports of private nursing institutions the statement that cases have been attended at a reduced fee or gratuitously. Happily, because this charity to the sick public is rarely conducted on the basis of securing to the nurses their full fees, and of helping those in need by a benevolent fund subscribed for this purpose by the wealthy. This would be a laudable and most charitable work. But the burden of the reduction of fees, as a rule, falls exclusively on the nursing staff, who are paid small salaries by the Committees which employ them and which utilize for philanthropic purpose the earnings of the private nurses.

This is entirely wrong. A private nursing institution should be worked in the interests of the nurses, the large majority of whom have no means beyond the fees which they earn by hard work, and the whole income of such a nursing institution should be utilised in the interests of the staff, for the working years of a private nurse are short, and if she is to save enough to maintain herself in old age, she must

be able to put by a part of her earnings each year for this purpose. It is bare justice that the person who earns the money should dispose of it in her own way, and should not be mulcted either to support hospitals, or to provide gratuitous nursing for private patients. Should a nurse be in a position to help those who need assistance the gift should be made voluntarily, and acknowledged as are other donations.

But, in pleading thus for justice to nurses, we in no way wish to minimize the difficulty which exists for the provision of skilled nursing for the middle classes, a difficulty which has scarcely yet been grappled with seriously at all. For the poor the hospitals provide the best medical and nursing care which are to be had. For the rich, well-qualified nurses are available. But the large class between these two is at present unprovided for, and the rich could scarcely make better use of their wealth than to place some of it at the disposal of private nursing co-operations and institutions, which would thus enable these societies to undertake the nursing of necessitous cases, which otherwise, in justice to their nurses, they would be compelled to refuse.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)