

The Nursing Record

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OUR ALBUM.



MRS. JOHN GAY (NURSE DAW)

EDITORIAL.

THE DUTIES AND TRAINING OF MONTHLY NURSES.

INEXTRICABLY connected with the work and the education of Midwives, to which we have of late devoted so much consideration, are the duties performed by Monthly Nurses, and the training through which they should pass. It will not be denied by any who are acquainted with what Monthly Nursing was twenty years ago, and what it is to-day, that a very great change for the better has in every way taken place, and this not only in the general character of the women who undertake the work, but also in the carefulness and efficiency with which they carry out the duties devolving upon them. But it must, on the other hand, be allowed that in both these respects a considerable degree of improvement is still possible. It is yet too much the custom, even amongst Medical men who most strongly believe in highly Trained Nurses for Medical and Surgical cases, to tacitly, if not openly, express their conviction that anyone is capable of acting as a Monthly Nurse, and that if any training at all be necessary, it need only be of the most meagre description.

For example, one very commonly hears of women who have been left as widows in straitened circumstances, being advised by their Doctors to become Monthly Nurses, and in that capacity obtaining regular employment through their support. We are well aware that in such cases the Medical man quietly takes upon his shoulders the considerable extra anxiety from which the presence of a Trained Nurse at his patient's bedside would have relieved him; and that, moreover, he invariably gives such instruction and supervision at first as may be necessary under such circumstances. But none the less, by his action in employing women who have received little or no training for the work—however charitable and kind-hearted such

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