

The Nursing Record

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OUR ALBUM.



MISS MARIAN HUMFREY.

EDITORIAL.

THE importance of the personal character and the professional knowledge of those engaged in Private Nursing cannot be over-estimated. This would at first sight seem such a self-evident truth that some might be inclined to wonder why it should be thus distinctly stated. But there are very many amongst our readers who are well aware that in no section of the Nursing profession is reform more urgently required than in this. We propose, therefore, to consider several of the burning questions which affect Private Nurses, and to show the methods which in our judgment may most usefully be employed to remove or prevent the resultant evils.

The prominent points of the *personnel* of the class, of the average standard of general and special knowledge of Nursing shown by its members, of the ordinary work required from them, and the usual remuneration which they receive, each and all demand investigation and improvement. It is passing strange, but perfectly true, that money which is popularly supposed to be capable of buying all things cannot of itself secure good Nursing. Nay more, it may be safely asserted that, on the whole, the rich in this country are not so well cared for in sickness as the very poor. The latter, when overcome by illness or accident, are admitted into our Hospitals and Infirmaries. Therein they obtain not only the highest Medical and Surgical skill, but are tended by Nurses who have been carefully selected, are being, or have been, thoroughly trained, and in any case are strictly supervised. The rich man, on the contrary, in his own house may be fortunate enough to obtain a highly skilled Nurse; but, on the other hand, he may fall into the charge of one of the hundreds of entirely ignorant women who are still at work in our midst. In either case, however, his attendant is practically under no control whatsoever. The patient has not the power, nor his

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