

The Nursing Record

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

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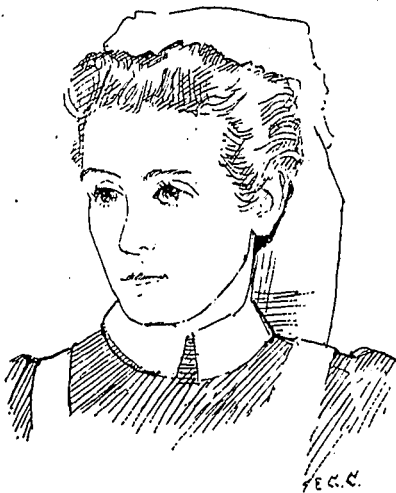
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OUR ALBUM.



MISS MARION C. PINCOFFS.

EDITORIAL.

DISTRICT NURSES.

DISTRICT Nursing is at present exciting much attention in professional and general circles, and it would almost appear as though a wave of great interest, and, perhaps, of no small improvement, were about to flow in the direction of this work. The daily papers have published letters from enthusiastic ladies advocating the necessity for good women and true to devote themselves to outdoor work amongst the very poor, both in isolated villages and in the purlieus of great towns. In the consideration which we recently gave to the important question of Village Nurses, we deduced—from considerable information and some personal knowledge of the main conditions of rural life—several conclusions entirely at variance with those lately formulated by a correspondent of the *Times*. This lady expressed views which we are well aware are widely held by the lay public, but we venture to believe that she and others will in due course discover that our judgment upon the matter is the more probably correct.

We repeat what we then proved—that to be a successful worker in rural districts the Nurse must be essentially one of the people; must be bone of their bone and flesh of their flesh. She must be accustomed, from her youth upwards, to live their life, and understand their ways, if she is to be of real assistance to villagers in illness. When, for example, she is acting as Monthly Nurse, she will have to manage her neighbour's house, as well as attend to her neighbour. This fact alone has only to be realised in its entirety and in its natural consequences, to make it plain that the work is impossible for strangers of any kind to carry out effectually, and above all impracticable for gentlewomen. With an unknown "lady" in the cottage, all would be constraint.

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