

THE
INTERNATIONAL

Nursing Record.

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

No. 105.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3rd, 1890.

VOL. 4.

Contents.

EDITORIAL.—AN INCORPORATED PROFESSION.—I.	157
OBSTETRIC NURSING. BY OBSTETRICA, M.B.N.A....	159
PRACTICAL LESSONS IN ELECTRO-THERAPEUTICS. BY ARTHUR HARRIES, M.D., AND H. NEWMAN LAWRENCE, MEMBER INSTITUTION ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS	160
PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION.—XVI. BY HELEN FOGGO-THOMSON	160
NURSING ECHOES. BY S. G.	164
WOMEN AND THEIR WORK. BY VEVA KARSLAND	166
"NURSING RECORD" BENEVOLENT FUND	168
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	168
REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS	168

EDITORIAL.

AN INCORPORATED PROFESSION.—I.

AN event has just occurred which is of considerable moment to every member of the journalist's craft, and at the same time must possess the greatest interest and significance at the present time, for Nurses also. Our readers may not be aware that until last month there was the most striking analogy between the two callings, as to the inchoate condition in which each existed. Any man, woman, or idiot, who chose to assume the title of journalist could do so, and could, however unfitted by training and experience, probably obtain some kind of literary employment, if only at long intervals, and for brief periods. There was no cohesion, no organisation amongst the members of a vocation whose importance to the commonwealth has been fully recognised for at least forty years. Indeed the analogy between writers and Nurses is in this respect very clear. Because it must be remembered that the Press in this country has only gained within very recent times the public influence and respect which it now indisputably possesses, and that even to-day it has not won a similar position for itself in any other country of the Old World. Its freedom in these Islands has

been slowly achieved and against great obstacles, and that it has been achieved at all is chiefly due to the character and the talents of its individual members.

For several years past there has been a shaking of the dry bones, and a gradually increasing feeling that journalists were now too useful to the State to remain any longer, as heretofore, totally useless to each other. So a National Association of Journalists was formed, which quietly did good work in bringing literary men together, and then was merged, about a year ago, into an Institute of Journalists. Now we ask Nurses to mark, read, and inwardly digest what has been done in the last twelve months. It was determined to seek a Royal Charter, and after some necessary delay this was duly drafted, and a petition for the provisions therein embodied was presented to Her Majesty the Queen. We believe that there was no opposition made, and last month the Charter was granted, and the journalists of Great Britain have at one stroke become an incorporated profession, and in future will take the position they are fully entitled to hold amongst other professional men and women.

The powers conferred by this Charter appear to bear a similarity almost startling to those which the British Nurses' Association seeks to obtain, except that the latter body does not ask for authority to examine Nurses. Its provisions are shortly summarised as follows, and we ask our readers' most earnest attention to them.

"(a) Devising measures for testing the qualifications of candidates for admission to professional membership of the institute by examination in theory and in practice, or by any other actual and practical tests; (b) the promotion of whatever may tend to the elevation of the status and the improvement of the qualifications of all members of the journalistic profession; (c) the ascertainment of the law and practice relating to all things connected with the journalistic profession and the exercise of super-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)