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THE Nursing Record.

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Those of our subscribers who wish to notify change of address must send such notification in order that it may reach the publishers NOT LATER than the Monday morning before publishing, otherwise the change cannot be made.

EDITORIAL.

THE DEFENCE.—II.

IT was pointed out in this column, last week, that the first reform which the Matron of the London Hospital claims to have instituted—the metamorphosis of the scrubbers—was entirely illusory, and that the second—the increase of the Nursing Staff—was equally visionary. The Matron asserts that in 1886 it was "manifest" that patients were neglected, and "equally evident" the Nurses were overworked. From the figures supplied by the Hospital officials it was shown that three months ago, with a larger number of patients, and greatly increased work and responsibility, there was hardly an appreciable increase in the number of regular Nurses. Everyone of course is aware that a very large number of paying Probationers are constantly kaleidoscoping through the Wards, to the additional anxiety of the Sisters, to the increased work of the Nurses, to the little benefit of the patients,

but to the comfortable enlargement of the Hospital's income.

We have had several letters on this subject during the past week, and one well-known medical man writes to express his "surprise that an official should venture to make statements, whether true or false, so calculated to cast immense discredit on the very Committee who appointed her, and on all connected with the London Hospital only ten years ago, because there can be no doubt that no other Hospital in London was in such a deplorable condition as that described by the Matron as existing at the London Hospital in 1880." We may inform our correspondent that we do not share his surprise, because events at the London Hospital have again and again conclusively proved that the Matron can do whatever she pleases, and not one of the Committee or Medical Staff dare dissent from her. Of course, therefore, however much she may deride their former mismanagement and neglect of the patients, even in the public Press, they will do nothing.

But the point which we desire to emphasize is that within the last ten years the number of the Nursing staff—Probationers in regular training or fully certificated Staff Nurses and Sisters—in many other large Hospitals has been more than doubled, and that the Paying Probationers are elsewhere looked upon as altogether additional and extraneous assistants. Whereas at the London Hospital the number of the Nursing Staff, according to the official figures, shows that in 1880 there were one hundred and twenty-eight regular Ward workers all told, and in 1890 there were one hundred and seventy-two. But of the former very few were usually ill, and none were ever sent out as Private Nurses; of the latter many are always on the sick list, and an unknown quantity of others are out of the Hospital, earning money

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