

# Nursing <sup>THE</sup> Record.

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

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## EDITORIAL.

### NURSING EDUCATION.

HOWEVER opinions may differ as to the results which will follow from the inquiry made by the Select Committee of the House of Lords into the management of Metropolitan Hospitals, one consequence may now be taken for granted. Thanks to the startling facts made public by Miss YATMAN and her friends, and to the consequent public interest aroused in the conditions under which Nurses work, a marvellous shaking of dry bones has been caused in many Hospitals. From all parts we receive private information from Matrons, from Nurses, from medical men, and even from members of Committees of Management, that our recent articles have aroused inquiry and suggested the adoption of many improvements. We only mention this to show some of our readers that there is another side of the question from that which they adopt in deprecating the publicity which we have given to the matter. We learn on good authority that at several well-known Hospitals improvements have already been brought into force—lengthened holidays, increased salaries, additional hours off duty, better bedroom accom-

modation, new cuisine arrangements amongst the number. We most earnestly congratulate Miss YATMAN and that indefatigable nursing reformer, Mrs. HUNTER, on the marked effects already produced by their crusade, and trust that they will continue their work until even greater success has been gained.

Meanwhile the Select Committee has been eminently successful in another matter. It has not only brought to a focus—so to speak—the diverging ideas of many who are dissatisfied with the present conditions of Hospital management, but it has elicited some most valuable suggestions for their amendment. Our concern is naturally only with the Nursing Department, and in this direction there is only the evidence given by Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, because she is the only witness who thus far has been examined as to the Nursing organization of a Hospital. All the other Nursing witnesses were engaged in attacking or defending the abuses at the London Hospital, while this lady was called simply as an expert to speak to the manner in which a Nursing Department ought to be conducted. We advise our readers, if possible, to procure the Blue Book, and read this interesting evidence for themselves. In several particulars it undoubtedly foreshadows the probable system of education for the Nursing profession in the future.

For example, the following questions and answers (9504-5) are most suggestive:—"Would you then like to see the number of paying and lady Probationers increased?—No, not as the paying and lady Probationers are at present constituted. I think that would be a great danger. I should like to see each Hospital organised practically upon the same lines as our medical schools; that is, that for a benefit received—such benefit as the certificate of a large Hospital is to a Nurse in her future professional career—she should have to pay both in money and in time. I believe that would meet the present difficulties which exist in regard to economy." "Do you think that the supply of those people who would be

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