

Nursing ^{THE} Record.

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

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EDITORIAL.

NURSING EDUCATION.—IV.

WE have endeavoured to show both the possibility and the probability that, in times to come, Nursing students will be obliged to pay for their education in money as well as in work. We have pointed out the effects to the Hospitals, to the Probationers, and to the Nursing craft which would inevitably follow such a system. It only remains, then, to discuss the results to the thoroughly Trained Nurses. It is self-evident that the good or evil consequences of a revolution in any manufacture must be most plainly manifested in the finished article; and so we should naturally expect to find that the most marked effect of a radical change in the training of Probationers will be exhibited in the resultant conditions of the certificated Nurses' work.

Professionally, then, as well as socially, we have been led to the conclusion that Nursing and its followers will hold a better position. This, be it remembered, is by no means a theoretical advantage only, nor one confined to Nurses alone. It will be infinitely better for medical men, and for the public, to be assisted by gentlewomen about whose status there is no shadow of doubt.

Nine-tenths, probably, of the discredit which has now and again fallen upon Nurses as a class has been due to the presumptuous ignorance, or ignorant carelessness, of women wearing a cap and apron, whose whole thoughts were occupied with the struggle to appear socially better or scientifically wiser than Nature or Art had made them, for the simple reason that their status was undefined and their knowledge indefinable. But, passing over this, we arrive at the crux of the whole matter, the question whether Nursing could or would become so well paid a calling that gentlewomen would be induced in larger numbers to enter it. And it must be borne in mind that parents and guardians would be much more inclined to defray the cost of an expensive Nursing education if it could be proved that it would be a good investment to do so—if, in short, there were prizes to be obtained in the Nursing profession, as there are in others. Consequently, upon the answer to this inquiry hangs much of the probability of the ultimate success of the system which we have been considering. We believe that both history and experience teach that there is every likelihood that Nursing posts must in future be better paid than they have been in the past. It is an ancient aphorism that a thing is worth what it will sell for, and there can be no doubt that the cause of Nursing has been hitherto much impeded by the fact that the salaries ordinarily paid to Nurses have been, and still are, so very meagre. When the services of both a Trained Nurse and a Nursemaid are required at £25 per annum, while an ordinary cook will receive £35, there is small wonder that the public fails to appreciate the real worth of skilled Nursing, nor that it considers that somehow or other cookery must be the more important vocation of the twain.

It may be urged that this is a bald way to state the case; but we wish our readers to clearly realise that there is not only a great deal of truth, but a great deal of common sense also, in this public observation. That is the manner in

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