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“QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT.”

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VOL. 8.

TO MOTHERS.

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Editorial.

HERE is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous, and the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses has successfully taken that step. We have recently pointed out, and deplored, the financial difficulties under which so many of our Hospitals now labour. We ventured, upon evidence which is eminently trustworthy, to foretell that still more serious losses might be sustained by certain of these Institutions within the next few months. With facts before us, which may be dragged to light at any moment, and the publication of which, we have no hesitation in saying, would cause irreparable harm to Hospitals, the outlook seemed sufficiently sombre. But Tragedy and Comedy stand hand in hand in the affairs of men, and a fitful gleam of amusement will be shed on the otherwise dark prospect by the fact that the Hospitals have been solemnly menaced by the "Pinching" Fund—as the irreverent now commonly term it.

This little farce was performed at the annual meeting of the Fund. It is notorious that very few Hospitals have responded to the cordial and oft-repeated invitation of the Council of the Fund that Hospital Committees should "walk into its parlour"—in other words, that Hospitals should affiliate with the Fund. The Committees of most Institutions are not only honourable, but business, men. It did not, therefore, take much consideration on their part to prove to them

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