

The Nursing Record

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

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— NOTICES. —

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Books, Pamphlets, &c., for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of the *Nursing Record*, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. The Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be strictly adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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EDITORIAL.

OUR last week's number contained extracts from the columns of several influential contemporaries noticing the first number of the *Nursing Record*, and giving opinions of the programme we laid before our readers. We regret that against the hitherto unanimous expression of approval there has been raised one dissentient voice. It is not an important organ which has done this, and we would have preferred to have ignored its utterance altogether. But it makes a statement so inaccurate, and draws from that a conclusion so unjust, that we feel constrained to take notice of it.

We must premise that the literary style of the journal in question is peculiar to itself. It always gives us the impression that the editor's ideas are written in a hurry on little slips of paper, and that

a sub-editor collects these, and hastily and haphazard pins them together to make up an annotation. We mention this only to explain that the following paragraphs are quoted in sequence, word for word, from the page of our contemporary, as the complete lack of coherence of ideas and argument might naturally lead most of our readers to believe that we were omitting essential facts and reasoning urged in support of the conclusions arrived at.

"*The Nursing Record*.—The statements made in this paper concerning the Pension Fund, and the various branches of the Hospitals Association's work, are so evidently written in a hostile spirit, that we need scarcely warn our readers not to accept them as unbiassed facts."

We pause for a moment here, to wonder how a "fact" can possibly be either *unbiassed*, or even "biassed." We would strongly advise our contemporary to endeavour to realise the "fact" that ungrammatical nonsense of this kind is not appreciated by educated readers. We totally deny that we have ever written anything in a hostile spirit to anybody. We take note, moreover, that our contemporary admits that we have only stated facts, and continue.

"In such circumstances we regret to hear that this paper is regarded as representing the views of the leading spirits and active promoters of the British Nurses' Association, and their names have been attached to several of the articles."

We evidently must not be too particular about our contemporary's reckless carelessness of grammatical rules; but why, in the name of all that is journalistic, should our critic "regret" that names have been attached to several of the articles? We are well aware that our contemporary produces Palmistry, Pulpits, and Puzzles, Corners, Consolations, and Charades, which, perhaps wisely, are unsigned—a cheerful conglomeration which we, as a journal for nurses, do not aspire to collect. But, on the other hand, it certainly never produces such practical articles on nursing questions as our columns show, and will always contain. And as our contributors will not be ashamed of their work, our articles, like those in most high-class papers, will almost invariably be signed. As our contemporary

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