

# The Nursing Record

"QUI NON PROFICIT, DEFICIT."

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## EDITORIAL.

WE desire to direct the attention of our readers to a most important subject. From trustworthy information which we have obtained from many quarters, we are convinced that there is a great and growing danger which is threatening the efficiency of Hospitals, and if not speedily checked, must inevitably tend to the injury of the Nursing profession. It is a fact of common knowledge, that never before has Nursing attracted so much attention from all classes as at present—never has the calling of the Trained Nurse stood so high in popular estimation—never have so many women of all ranks sought to enter the work.

The natural consequences of this have been manifold. In the first place, the desire of those who could afford to pay for their training to enter

our large and well-known Nursing Schools, has had results which might have been easily predicted, but which, as a matter of fact, most certainly were not foreseen. The number of patients any given Hospital can accommodate is strictly defined; consequently, the number of resident attendants the Institution not only requires, but can even find sufficient work for, can also with the greatest ease be estimated; and therefore the number of Nurses that any Hospital can undertake to teach is limited. This may appear so self-evident, that it is quite unnecessary to state the fact, but it is quite certain that its necessary consequences have not been sufficiently realised.

The majority of the training schools are, of course, attached to Hospitals; and that, in this country, nearly every Hospital has the greatest difficulty in meeting its expenses, is equally well-known. The larger the Institution, the greater its sphere of work, the more onerous must this difficulty of raising its necessary funds become. But the larger the Hospital, the more Nursing work does it afford, and therefore the greater income can it derive from the increased numbers whom it is able to admit as paying Probationers. What has happened, therefore, as we have said, might easily have been foretold. Hospitals, on the one hand, anxious to obtain funds, and possessing an article for which there is a great and ever-increasing request; women, on the other, anxious to be allowed to pay the sums demanded, for an insight, however limited, into the rudiments of the Nursing Art. The temptation, it is well recognised, to make this source of income as productive as possible, has, in many instances, been too great to be resisted, and the number of paying Probationers has been increased, to the necessary reduction of non-paying workers admitted.

This, it may be said, is not altogether an evil—that it means that Nurses are being drawn from a higher grade than they formerly were. But it must be remembered that there are serious drawbacks. It is necessarily bad for the patients, and,

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