

overlooked—I mean those who are neither “rich” nor “poor,” that numerous middle class who live, for instance, in cheap “apartments” and in those rows of little villas in the suburbs of London and other towns. When sickness enters a “rich” home, a nurse is summoned at once, the thirty shillings or two guineas per week for her services being probably not twice thought of. Besides this, there are several servants to do the extra work involved by illness.

Again, when sickness enters a “poor” home, there is in nearly every parish now a district nurse to watch over the sufferer with daily care; or there is the hospital or infirmary, where the sick one can be taken in and receive every attention. But in the small homes, for which I plead, the case is very different. They are above the class visited by the district nurse, yet the weekly payment for a private nurse is entirely beyond their means.

A district nurse once told me she used to pass a row of such little houses daily, and she had opportunity of finding out that her services were *more needed* in some of them than in the slums beyond, where her regular work lay. A peep into one of them only last week showed a widowed mother very ill and undergoing a serious operation, five little children, and only a maid-of-all-work to nurse the invalid, look after the children, and do the entire work of the house. How could a nurse be thought of, when the doctor's bill was already a sad worry to the poor anxious sufferer?

In such a case (and it is only one out of many which have come under my notice lately) what an inestimable comfort a free (or nearly free) nurse would have been. Not a grand lady, requiring to be waited on (for there are nurses *and* nurses!), but one of the many who are willing to do *anything* to bring relief of body and mind to their patient, and comfort and order to the house upset by illness.

Surely some plan could be devised for supplying such nurses at a rate of payment within the means of these small homes; but this I will leave to those with a special knowledge of the working of nursing institutions to suggest and, I trust, carry out. Its abuse could easily be prevented by the compulsory signature of a medical man or clergyman to all applications.—I am, &c.,

A GRATEFUL PATIENT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—Could you inform me of the address of an Ambulance Association, and the fee to attend the first course of lectures?—Apologising for troubling you, I am, yours truly,

A. B. L.

9, Gayton Crescent, Hampstead.

[Our correspondent should apply to the Secretary of the National Health Society, 44, Berners Street, W.—*Ed.*]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I hear that you can give information on the subject of nursing appointments abroad. Perhaps you will be so good as to let me know to whom I should apply for an appointment in India? Have had long experience in nursing, and wish to nurse specially typhoid fever and dysentery.—Yours truly,

June 4th, 1888.

S. G.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—Will “Hope” communicate with Sister Clara, Church House, 193, Bow Road, Bow, E.?
June 3rd, 1888.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I am delighted to read that your excellent paper is going to give an opportunity for free discussion concerning “Diets for Nurses.” There is no doubt, as a rule, more practical knowledge concerning their duties is required by the majority of ladies who undertake the position of housekeeper in our public institutions than they at present possess, and that, in consequence, nurses are not so well fed as they might be, if more interest and thought was bestowed upon the subject. At the same time, I have met nurses very difficult to satisfy; and have a lively recollection of my personal experiences when performing the duties of Home Sister in a large and well-known hospital. Two nurses (sisters) for whom I had to cater were invariably dissatisfied with everything brought to table; and do what I could to satisfy them, they merely condescended to sniff, turn over, and peck at the excellent food provided. I naturally imagined that they had been accustomed to *Diner à la Russe* at 8 p.m., at their paternal table; instead of “weak tea and winkles,” which their worthy old mother afterwards informed me was the “chief of their diet,” when located under her humble roof, and engaged in the “bead trade.”—Yours faithfully,

AN EX-HOUSEKEEPER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I think that you have been doing a good work in drawing attention to some of the anomalies of the National Pension Fund. Being women, we are not supposed “to have a knowledge of business,” and so, before investing our money, we should like to know that it is a straightforward affair and business-like. Now, as a nurse, it does not look to me to be quite right to tell me that I must pay more money a year because my chances of dying sooner than the dispenser, or the secretary, or the porter, are less. Whoever says that knows but little of our work; and to improve his knowledge I would refer him to the Registrar General's tables. Nor, as a nurse, does it look to me quite right to call them nurses who are no nurses, and give them benefits (if benefits they are) in a pension fund for nurses, unless the nursing profession is going to be remodelled to include every hospital official from the chairman downwards. These are two points about which I want a little more instruction before I pay my money to get an annuity from the National Pension Fund.—I am, Sir, yours,

A NURSE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—In answer to a letter which appeared in your last issue, signed “Ignoramus,” asking me for information on the best books to study before entering upon the duties of a probationer, I would suggest that there are many persons holding important positions in the nursing world to whom it would be far better to apply for information upon the subject than to me.

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