

the strain on the Probationer lasts throughout the day. In the hospital in which I was trained—one that stands high in the Nursing world—viz., the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, our ward-maids swept and polished their floors daily, and swept up the crumbs after dinner, to say nothing of the washing and “bees-waxing” that took place periodically, and yet the Probationers had plenty to do, and were quite ready to rest their aching feet when they got “off duty.” And now a word about that “off duty.” It seems to me a little more might be granted even in very busy hospitals with a little management, for it is a well-known fact that if the Nurses and Probationers are taken care of, they in their turn are more able to take care of their patients with that cheerfulness so valuable to sick people, and so difficult to keep up evenly, when very weary.

For instance, the Staff Nurse and Probationer might have alternate weeks, afternoons, or evenings for whichever time they can be best spared three times one week and a shorter time in the forenoons the following week daily; an extra hour or so added to the hour usually allowed for lunch and changing one's dress, so that it would be practicable to get a little fresh air by daylight, which, according to Miss Blissett's arrangement, seems impossible. Of course the week you have the morning time “off” you are “on duty” every evening, so that it does not interfere with the Sister's time off duty. Another thing that our Superintendents were particular about was that the Probationer should leave the ward for half or three-quarters of an hour for tea in the home. We were sometimes tempted to rebel, and take it in the ward kitchen, but after a time recognised the wisdom of the rule by the extra freshness and vigour we were enabled to put into our evening work. Hoping you will pardon my trespassing thus on your space, permit me to sign myself

A SISTER (WHO SYMPATHISES  
WITH THE “PROS.”)

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[next page](#)