

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—The question as to what is the true status of professionally Trained Nurses is one of great importance to them, as bearing upon the vital point of their employment. The difficulties detailed by "Sister Despair" in your issue of the 19th ult., are neither new nor singular; for qualified women, eminently fitted by training, experience and capacity, have been debarred from taking Hospital posts, on the ground of their non-proficiency in housekeeping duties, which however important in themselves, are outside the range of true professional Nursing.

Now what is the remedy for this anomalous state of things? Some say, let the Nurses learn housekeeping; but that seems rather to beg, than determine, the question of their position, and leads to a depressing doubt as to whether they are to be ranked Nurses or Housekeepers. Why should qualified Nursing women be expected to perform dual duties over women engaged in any other special calling? Is the system pursued in private households? Is the lady's maid asked to assist in the kitchen, or the governess required to wait at table? Surely, then, a professionally Trained Nurse, fully competent, under medical direction, to take charge of the sick, is entitled to receive employment upon the ground of professional proficiency alone. Now when I say the "charge" of the sick, I use the word in its widest sense, a Hospital sense, and I apply it to qualified women, capable of superintending every branch of Hospital Nursing work, able to exercise a wise authority over those under them, and competent to carry out the wishes of those placed in authority over them. It is such women as these who are kept out of employment for which they are specially fitted, on the plea that they cannot undertake, other and diverse duties, for which they are not specially suitable.

Are our Hospital authorities wise in continuing this state of things? Can they be induced to amend it? That they may, is the earnest wish of your correspondent.

JUSTITIA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Copse Hill, Wimbledon.

Sir,—Will you kindly inform me to whom to apply as I am very desirous of joining the British Nurses' Association.

A. ALLEN.

[The Hon. Secretaries, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., enclosing large stamped, addressed envelope — ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I should be glad to hear of a Home or Institution, where a girl of 18, of weak intellect, could be received. She can sew nicely, and do light house work, but must be under constant surveillance. The mother is quite destitute, but has a situation to go to, if anything could be arranged for the daughter.

SYMPATHY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I have spent the last nine years of my life in private Nursing, chiefly paralysis, which is not the easiest thing to nurse. Of course during that time I

have gained a great deal of experience, but have never had thorough training. I have lately applied to several of the London Hospitals for admittance as Probationer, and have been told either, that I am past the age, or that I should not be strong enough for Hospital work. Will any of the readers of your valuable journal, kindly advise me what to do to make myself more competent as a Nurse? I am extremely fond of the work, and after spending so many years at it, do not know any other way of earning my living. My age is thirty-three.—Yours truly,
E. H. C.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

CHILDREN'S COUNTRY HOLIDAY FUND.—Sir,—This fund has been established to enable London children to spend two or three weeks in the country. Last year visitors in various parts of London, working in connection with this fund, sent over 14,000 children to spend their holidays by the sea or among the fields. The children were received as guests in the cottages of villagers, where they joined in the life of the family, and where some lady or neighbour saw to their care and enjoyment. All came home bringing, not only a store of health, but also memories of country life to widen sympathy and enhance goodwill. The cost was only 5s. a week, and in each case the parents gave a contribution according to their means. From 33 centres in the north, east, south, and west of London visitors are now selecting pale and ailing children, asking no questions as to views or creeds. May I remind those who are now flying from the weariness of the finest parts of London that, unless they give to our fund, thousands of children who need the change, and for whom country air and freedom are ready, must spend their holidays in narrow homes and close streets?

Donations may be sent to the Hon. Alfred Lyttleton, 10, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.—Your obedient servant,
F. LONDIN.
Fulham Palace, July 31.

PRESS OPINIONS.

THE NURSING RECORD (*London: Sampson Low and Co.*)—"Almost every profession and trade have their representative journals, and among the later special additions to the press of this country we are pleased to notice the *Nursing Record*, which is intended to represent the interests of that large and important class of women who are devoting their lives to attendance upon the sick. This journal is very well got up, and is conducted in an independent and spirited manner. We sincerely wish it great success."—*The Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal*.

NEW LEAVES.—"THE NURSING RECORD,' a new journal, seems likely to be a valuable and valued publication."—*Fun*.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)