

distinct and separate from Medicine, were most sensible. The literary tone of your Journal was generally commended, and full justice done to the extraordinary advance made of late years in the art of Nursing. But as one of our company remarked, "The better Nurse a woman is, the more will she be respected; the better medical man a Nurse pretends to be, the more will she be despised."—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
W.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—A Late Lady Superintendent, has quoted the supply of linen that she has found to be necessary in a Children's Hospital, and I ask your leave to do the same. At the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, our allowance per cot for the week was *one* linen sheet, *two* draw sheets, *one* pillow-case, *two* night-gowns, blankets and quilts as required. As Ward Sister I took a pride in keeping my beds clean, and in teaching my Nurses to work within their allowance; and as Lady Superintendent, when showing the Wards, I often had the gratification of hearing remarks on the clean, tidy appearance of the wards. Unforeseen emergencies among the patients were dealt with separately if the Nurse had no store with which to meet the demand. The hours of meals were, breakfast, 8 a.m.; dinner, noon; tea, 4 p.m.; and for the evening and night there was a provision of milk and bread and butter, but no regular supper was served; about 5 a.m., the Nurse would give milk and a piece to all who asked for it. This only applies to the ordinary diet; those patients on special diet were fed at regular intervals during the twenty-four hours.

The prayers were read in the Wards at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., and before 7 p.m. the day Nurses had finished their work, and the Ward was left in the charge of one Nurse until 9 or 10 p.m., when the night staff came on duty.—Yours truly,
C. WOOD,

Lady Superintendent of the Children's Hospital, Gt. Ormond Street.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—As your remark in your foot note, "H.M.'s" letter opens up an interesting subject, and one of even greater importance to Nurses than they may at first fully recognise. The true fact of the case is this, that many more educated young women now complete their training every year, than there are superior posts for them to fill. The competition for the position of Matron or Sister becomes more keen every day, as all those who have tried for them during the last few years know to their cost. Nursing, like every other branch of skilled work, is becoming rapidly overstocked, and in consequence few London Hospitals now admit ladies as Sisters, who have not been trained in their own Nursing School. This will be recognised at once by all as only fair and just; but in the smaller and special hospitals, both in town and country, it is sometimes advantageous to obtain the services of a thoroughly experienced woman, who has been able to gain more experience elsewhere, and therefore it is for these posts that ladies situated like "H. M." should apply.

I would advise every Nurse who enters upon a long term of training to strive, during her residence in the hospital to which she is attached, so to perform her duties, and conduct herself, that those in authority over

her will naturally appreciate her good work, and in consequence interest themselves in her future. This is the surest foundation upon which to construct a successful career. Also, do not let her be too anxious to sever her connection with her *Alma Mater*, at the end of her training, but if needs be let her remain on for a time as Staff Nurse, gaining experience every day. She can then be looking out for such employment as she may desire, and she must recognise the fact that she will in all probability have to apply for several posts before she is fortunate enough to be the selected candidate. It is quite lately that we have read of the numerous disappointments of "Sister Despair," a lady evidently of great experience in her profession.

At the same time do not let Nurses forget that every good Nurse is not fitted for the position of either Sister or Matron.—Yours truly,
EXPERIENCE.

[We may divulge the secret that "Sister Despair" is in despair no longer, but has at last been rewarded for her perseverance, by obtaining the position of Lady Superintendent to a well-known country hospital.—ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I notice in reading the reprint of Mr. Bonham-Carter's pamphlet in your last number, that he quotes the opinion of an "experienced Hospital Matron" in support of his own views, that the time has not yet arrived for the establishment of a General Register for Nurses. On this question I do not desire to touch, but I think the majority of Nurses will agree with me that it is to be regretted that Mr. Bonham-Carter should have been reduced to reprinting and circulating the letter of a lady, who has evidently formed so low an opinion of the majority of educated Nurses, and therefore, presumably of her fellow-workers. I imagine this lady holds a position of importance in the Nursing world, but it is quite evident that the following damaging statement was never made by the gentle and sympathetic woman, who at present presides over the great Nursing School of St. Thomas's Hospital, with which Mr. Bonham-Carter has been so long connected. Writing of examinations and certificates, the lady alluded to, says, "At the present time. Nursing is fashionable, and there cannot be the slightest doubt that there are large numbers of young women taking it up, not because they have a taste for it, not even because they wish to be useful in this life, not even because they desire to earn their livelihood, but simply because they have an idea that when once their probation is over, they will lead a life of much greater freedom than they possibly could if they continued to reside with their friends." As a Hospital Matron of many years' experience, I wish to repudiate these aspersions cast upon "large numbers of young women," especially on behalf of the *hundreds* of Probationers of all classes, whose term of three years' training I have had the happiness in the past to superintend, and whose aptitude for, and interest in, their work, combined with the unselfish devotion with which they performed its most repulsive duties, was an ever recurring cause for my warmest admiration and gratitude. The woman who has no taste for nursing the sick, who has no wish to be of use in her generation, and who enters a Hospital for the mere purpose of disporting herself more freely than is decent in the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)