

Officer sniffed at beds as well as wounds, and considered the freshness of the former, wonderfully conducive to the well-being of the latter.—Yours truly,

A LATE LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—In reference to a paper in the *Nursing Record*, comparing the Registration of Nurses to that of Midwives, may I point out that the need for the latter is of far more pressing importance than can be claimed for the former measure? In this, the only country in Europe in which a woman can practise as a Midwife without licence or diploma, there can be no question that the need for some such measure is underrated. Very few people outside the profession itself appear to realise the dangers of the present system; occasional letters from doctors to the medical papers, detailing some peculiarly painful case brought under their notice, arouse languid indignation, with a vague desire that "something should be done," in a very few minds. It is, however, a fact, that few seem aware of, that a bill is drafted already, which fully deals with the whole question of the Registration of Midwives, and only awaits greater public interest to become law.

In quoting the definition of the position of Midwives given by Dr. Stokes, at a meeting of the General Medical Council, 1872, I would point out how far different are the positions of Trained Nurses and Midwives, as the latter are defined here by a medical man. He said, "Midwives were practitioners to a certain extent of a branch of surgery and medicine. The interests of that large number of the poor, who came under the care of these female practitioners, ought to be cared for."

Such a position as this has never been claimed for Trained Nurses, involving as it does far more grave responsibilities than they are required to undertake, and any measure for the Registration of women upon whom devolves such serious functions, must, I think, claim greater *urgency* than that for Nurses.—Faithfully yours,

J. WILSON, Hon. Sec.,  
Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association.

[We have pleasure in publishing any letter from Miss Wilson. We do not altogether agree with her, however, and shall take an early opportunity of discussing the subject at some length.—ED.]

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

"Sister Clara" will feel very grateful if anyone could inform her where Sisters' caps are well "got up," &c.

[We have made inquiries, and find that Mrs. Stephenson, Wormwood Scrubs Laundry, Notting Hill, W., is well recommended.—ED.]

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

#### OVERCROWDING OF THE NURSING PROFESSION.

Dear Sir,—May I say a few words more on the same subject as my previous letter? As it would be to the advantage of Hospitals to retain their three years' Trained Nurses as Staff Nurses, why do they not grant them some small privileges, such as a short time off duty each day (instead of every other day), and exemption from further night duty? After three

years' hard work, a woman feels the need of a longer holiday; she feels that if she is to devote her life to the work, the strain must be removed for a time. Then, too, with perhaps nearly a dozen Nurses still her seniors, she has not the right to expect promotion over their heads, and yet the prospect of another year, or year and-a-half, of continuous Ward work is rather trying. And yet I am sure there are many who would venture on it, if the authorities would only think of offering them, say, a couple of months' holiday after their three years' training is finished.

I was struck, from the very first, on entering the Hospital, at the indifference shown to retaining any of their Trained Nurses. Perhaps it is that they know they can always get more, and have not yet realized what a boon it would be to physicians, surgeons, and patients to have more Trained Nurses about. But they will never find them very willing to stop on till they show they appreciate them above their younger Nurses. Such is the force of habit at the large Hospitals that I do not think any Nurses would ask for any privileges such as I have mentioned, but if it were looked on as an understood thing, Probationers would grow up more with the idea of devoting several years of their life to their old Hospital, which they love so well, in spite of so many drawbacks. If the "Nursing Record" could help to bring about such a boon, it would earn the thanks both of Nurses and Hospitals.—Faithfully yours,

M. HUNT.  
15, Aberdeen Park, Highbury, N.  
Sept. 14th.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Dear Sir,—I was very pleased to see in last week's "Nursing Record" the letter signed "H.M." Others who have done private Nursing for the Hospital in which they were trained would also like a more settled life now. What is to become of them? Thanking you for the "Nursing Record," which is most useful and interesting.—Yours truly,

September 7th, 1888.

NORAH.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—You invite correspondence concerning the letter signed "H.M.," printed in your last week's issue. To me there seems but one answer to its inquiries—the Nursing profession is overcrowded by the class of Nurse who expect promotion upon the completion of their term of training, whether that term be one, two, or three years in duration. Legal Registration of Nurses, after not less than three years' experience, will greatly mitigate this difficulty, as the half-trained Nurse, with her short term of experience, will not then be able to compete in the open market with the thoroughly trained and experienced woman, and often gain—if she has more local interest—a position which should be the award of meritorious service. Nurses, to a great extent, have the remedy in their own hands. Let them insist on Registration after a lengthy term of work, and they will be amazed to find how many Nurses, who formerly were competitors and recognised as their equals, will have fallen out of the ranks during the prescribed term of trial.—Yours faithfully,

THOROUGH.

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