

she cannot effectually do this, unless she has been instructed to "see," "hear," and "observe," during her Nursing education.

The Nurse has one great advantage over the Doctor: her work is patent—his latent. Everybody knows what the Nurse *does*, and in a measure can judge of her skill; but no one knows what the Doctor *thinks*, nor would they understand him if they did, diagnosis being to the laity an occult art. Hence he is more liable to misrepresentation, or even injustice, than a Nurse. A knowledge of this fact should always lead a Nurse to show undeviating loyalty to her Medical chief. These remarks apply of course more to Private than Hospital Nursing.

I think then we may say that Nurses may fairly claim clinical instruction from Doctors on the ground of the great assistance it will be to them, in their professional duties, besides greatly tending to the well-being of their patients.

That some of the leading members of the 'B.N.A. may take up this matter of clinical instruction to Nurses, is the sincere wish of your correspondent.—

JUSTITIA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Nurse Frances will be glad if the Editor of *The Nursing Record* could give her the address of the "Mary Wardell" Convalescent Home. She has been told it is "near London."

Ann's College, Abbott's Bromley,
Rugeley, April 22, 1889.

[Stanmore, Middlesex; or to Miss Mary Wardell,
55, Stanley Gardens, Belsize Park, N.W.—ED.]

"WHITE SLAVERY."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I think all *real* Nurses, who have their work thoroughly at heart, will thank you for the very spirited way in which the Editorial columns of this week's *Nursing Record* have taken up the subject of "White Slavery."

I have long thought there has been far too much of this "sham sentiment," as you aptly term it, about Nurses and their profession, and I believe it is high time such nonsense was stopped. Some few things, perhaps, of what the writer on "White Slavery" says are true. Our hours *are* long, and the work is exceedingly arduous and wearing to body and brain; and, of course, many do knock up, as I have often done myself, not only in getting generally run down, but also in taking infectious diseases. But taking everything into account—hard work, ill health, and all other "grievances" of a Nurse's life—I think there are very few who would, or do, give it up unless absolutely obliged.

You are quite right in saying we do not want pity, and the Nurse who could make a great outcry and want a lot of pity because perhaps a severe case requires her occasionally to miss a meal, or lose her time off duty, or indeed in any way to put her own comfort before the welfare of her patient, is not worthy the name. Of course the work is hard. How can a pitched battle between life and death be anything else? But then the reward! One must be a Nurse

to understand what it is to tend a human being hanging between life and death, and gradually see the disease yielding to the remedies and treatment faithfully carried out, and to feel that somewhat through your watchful care and skill your patient is restored. Far from Nurses in Hospitals being on duty night and day, I have often found the rules of hours very arbitrary in compelling me to go off duty when I had far rather stayed at work. In the Hospital where I was trained the rules were very strict; Day and Night Nurses on and off duty to the moment, and however interested you might be in a case, you had to leave. In this Hospital, where I have charge of a Fever Ward, these rules are not quite so strict, and a Charge Nurse can, if she pleases, stay later on duty if she has anything particular going on. I think that is as it should be, and if one does so, it is because she chooses, having an interest in her work, and wishing to help her Nurses. As to accommodation in some Hospitals, there is still something to be desired, but, as a rule, a Nurse's life off duty in the house is a very cheerful and happy one. Here, at any rate, we have a handsomely-built house and tennis lawn; each a separate, well-furnished bedroom and a comfortable dining hall, with plentiful, well-cooked food.

For my own part I think with Miss Nightingale that "Nursing is the finest of the fine arts," and a Hospital Ward the best place in the world. I hope the day is far distant when a Nurse will wish to be thought (in season and out of season) anything else but a Nurse, and still farther distant when she shall set her affections on such paltry considerations as carpeted floors, elaborately-cooked dinners, and fashionable clothes, and "work made easy" by being on duty but eight hours out of the twenty-four. I feel, Mr. Editor, I could write pages on this subject, but it seems such a pity your valuable pages should be taken up by such foolish discussions; for if Nurses and their work are to make such an outcry, the public at large will get heartily sick of them, and the sooner they sink into oblivion the better.—Yours faithfully,

A CHARGE NURSE.

EARNESTNESS.—"It is only the earnest men who accomplish any good in the world," people are always saying. Yet many earnest men accomplish little good but cause a deal of evil instead. Earnestness often makes men inconsiderate, hasty, precipitate, rash, intolerant, and sometimes cruel. Earnest men are often determined to have their own way, and are real despots in life, willing to destroy all moral, social, and civil freedom to get their own way; they deem it a waste of time to try to convince men and strive to compel them, as the quickest mode of obtaining their own purposes. *Ignorant* earnestness is a serious stumbling-block; but *intelligent* earnestness is a grand quality in a man. Learn that you are right, before you be so very much in earnest. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." Get solidly satisfied that you have found the *real* good, and then be thoroughly in earnest in the practice of it yourself, and in recommending it to others.

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