

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

MY readers will remember that, in the issue of August 15, I alluded in rather a complaining spirit to what I considered to be an extravagant and unreasonable charge made by the proprietor of a Dublin hotel.

THIS has called forth a letter from Deputy-Surgeon-General Roch, addressed to the Editor, who, in the ordinary course of this journal's arrangements, has handed it to me to deal with, and I have, therefore, much pleasure in giving up some of my space for its insertion.

"Mrs. Moor's Hotel, Cappoquin,

"Co. Waterford, 27th August, 1889.

"To the Editor of 'The Nursing Record,' St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, E.C.

"Dear Sir,—I read with no little astonishment, mingled with regret, a statement in *The Nursing Record*, of 15th August, under the *nom-de-plume* 'Lucinda,' that she and her party were charged four shillings and sixpence for three cups of tea at Russell's Temperance Hotel, Stephen's Green, Dublin. I say surprise because I invariably stop at this hotel whenever I go to Dublin, and find the accommodation most comfortable, charges very moderate, and the officials, one and all, most obliging, civil, and attentive.

"I stayed there with my family, comprising five people, the end of July last, and on arrival, as we were fatigued after our journey, we chose to have breakfast, consisting of hot buttered toast, bread, butter, tea, and coffee, in our several bedrooms, for which we were charged five shillings—*i.e.*, one shilling each! All the other charges of the hotel were correspondingly moderate. You will, therefore, understand my surprise at the statements of 'Lucinda.'

"I read them with regret, that one whose calling (Nurse to the sick) is the most noble and charitable in existence should have been led into an act as uncharitable as it was unjust, and calculated to inflict an unmerited injury on an establishment such as the hotel in question.

"The charge was acknowledged to be the result of an error! Three shillings of the five shillings and sixpence" [four shillings and sixpence I presume my correspondent means] "was, therefore, refunded, which left but sixpence remaining for each cup of tea—the usual charge everywhere. There was really, therefore, nothing to warrant 'Lucinda's' action, which I can only impute to an overdose of ozone taken at Tramore that required vent in some way or other! I have had the cause of the error of charge explained to me,

and acquit the hotel completely of all intention in the matter.

"Do me the favour, and the hotel the justice, of inserting this in the next issue of your most interesting and useful journal, either with or without my signature.—Faithfully yours,

"SAMPSON ROCH,

"Deputy-Surgeon-General, Medical Officer of Health for Cheltenham."

Now I feel quite sure that my readers will be with me when I state, with all due deference to my esteemed correspondent's opinion, that I have neither been unjust nor uncharitable, nor have I desired in any way to inflict any injury on any establishment whatever. What I have said I am quite prepared to prove and stand by, for it is very evident that "the tale (as told to Dr. Roch) has lost in the telling"; and I am also afraid that gentleman has not himself read my remarks on the matter very carefully, and which I must here reproduce.

"THE second complaint is—and I am making both of them before I forget the incidents—that when we reached Dublin we were charged for three cups of tea the sum of, if it please you, no less than four shillings and sixpence, which seemed to be about two hundred per cent. over and above our Langham Hotel prices, which I suppose are about as high as anywhere. But more of this anon."

"AND here is where the second complaint I made comes in. Instead of taking the advice of our worthy hostess at Waterford, in respect to an hotel in Dublin, we in a weak moment yielded to the suggestion of a fellow-passenger, and made for Russell's Temperance Hotel, St. Stephen's Green."

"I DON'T wish to be hard, and I have no desire to be personal, but I cannot help remarking that we paid quite twenty-five per cent. more for twenty-five per cent. inferior accommodation at this place than we did at the Imperial at Waterford. It was at Russell's that we were charged four shillings and sixpence for three cups of tea. We looked in at the hotel on the Wednesday afternoon, about half-past four, for a cup of tea, and being a Temperance Hotel, made sure that such a beverage would be forthcoming quickly, and at a reasonable rate. At the end of sixteen minutes the tea made its appearance, followed by the charge alluded to above. I need hardly say that we expressed ourselves pretty strongly on the matter; in fact, the leader of the 'party' waxed considerably eloquent, and with some force gave his opinion on the unhandsome charge. Three shillings was

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