

till after twelve. I had been at work from 8.30 the evening before. I then went to bed, and got up before seven and went on duty again at 8.30. Up, of course, all night as usual, and the next day (Tuesday) had to do the out-patients' ward again; twenty-seven patients that day. I got to bed at 12.30. The next evening Matron came up to the children's ward to ask me to make some lotion for the Theatre, as there was to be a bad operation in the morning, and told me to call one of the Day Nurses *after four a.m.* and go to bed for a few hours, as she wanted me to do the out-patients' again, and afterwards to be at this operation, so I called Nurse and got to bed myself at five a.m. At eight they sent some breakfast up to me and I got up (after having only three hours' sleep), did the out-patients with the Doctor—had over thirty—and at half-past eleven went to this operation, which lasted till 1.30 p.m.—a very serious case, ovariectomy, a woman twenty-six years old. She is in a special Ward with two Nurses—a Day Nurse, and myself as special for night. We are supposed to take twelve hours exactly, each of us. I go on from ten at night till ten next morning. It is pretty stiff work, but I don't mind that. The Day Nurse is very nice, and has not been here long, and the Matron favours her, and each morning keeps me on duty till half-past ten, or a little more. Well, I don't mind being on duty an extra half hour, but what made me feel really angry yesterday was after I had stayed on duty till half-past ten, Matron said I was to come on again at nine in the evening to shorten the day for the Day Nurse, thus giving me thirteen and a-half hours to her ten and a-half. The night is much more trying than the day, I think; we are never allowed to move out of the Ward, and in the morning I have to do the grate, sweep and dust the Ward, wash the patient, &c., all before the Day Nurse comes on. Well, at half-past ten I went upstairs to my room, had to make my bed, tidy my room, and take a bath, and it was just twelve when I got to bed, and one before I could get to sleep. I was called at five, got up and went to church, came back and had some supper, and came on duty at once (nine p.m.). I suppose I shall stay on duty till 10.30."

Sir, it strikes me the above account from the bright, cheerful girl who has undertaken to learn this arduous work, speaks for itself, and shows that there should be strict rules, under a committee, regulating the Nurses' hours, and that a Matron should *not have the power* to exact the cruel labour the Matron in question evidently does from her Nurses, several of whom, like my young friend, are *ladies*, though this one, being orphaned and poor, has to earn her very hard living. She likes her work and means to go through with it if she does not break down, but she does think it hard, that when she is feeling quite ill from the constant strain and overwork, the Matron should force her to keep on as long as she can hold up at all, with the sword of Damocles held up over her head—"You are not fit for nursing."—I remain, yours faithfully,  
A. H. NOYES.  
Hillbrow, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Miss Ella Lisle.*—We cannot insert your letter unless you are prepared to corroborate your statements.

*Governor.*—Your statements that we are the only paper publishing adverse criticisms upon the Institution with which you are connected is incorrect, and that we are actuated by malice puerile. The *Pall Mall Gazette* has also had the courage of its opinions. We would advise you to read the *National Review* and *English Illustrated Magazine* for the current month. In the former you will find forcibly expressed by a man of the world opinions very generally entertained concerning the notorious mismanagement of the Nursing Department; and in the latter a fellow-Governor proves herself quite capable of reforming these abuses. You will do well to communicate with her.

*Private Nurse.*—We think that you ought to be able to earn £1 a week clear. A good profit is then made by your employer, if two guineas a week is charged for your services. Private Nursing is the most trying branch of the profession, and should, therefore, be better paid than any other. If you are unable to get cases on your own account, you must not forget that it is quite just that you should pay a percentage to the Institution for procuring you employment.

EASTER HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.—The Great Eastern Railway Company announce cheap excursions for six days on Thursday, 26th March, from London (Liverpool Street) by their new line *via* the cathedral cities of Ely and Lincoln to Doncaster, York, Leeds, Manchester, &c.; also to the principal towns served by their trains in Cambridge, Norfolk and Suffolk. A special booking office will be opened at Liverpool Street from the 23rd to the 26th March for the issue of ordinary tickets and of fortnightly, and Thursday, Friday, or Saturday to Tuesday cheap tickets to the sea-side for use on forward dates. Tickets may also be obtained at the Company's West End office, 61, Regent Street, and at their other City and West End booking offices. In addition to relieving trains on Thursday and Good Friday a special train will leave Liverpool Street at 8.3 p.m. on Thursday, and nine a.m. on Good Friday for Ipswich, Yarmouth, Lowestoft; and for the accommodation of persons detained at business until late in the evening of Saturday, special midnight trains will leave Liverpool Street at 11.55 p.m. for Norwich *via* Cambridge, and at 12.15 a.m. for Norwich and Yarmouth *via* Ipswich, calling at the principal intermediate stations. On Easter Monday special excursion trains will be run from St. Pancras for Cambridge, Ely, Yarmouth, and Liverpool Street for Southend, Clacton, Walton, Harwich, Cambridge and Ely. Excursion tickets by all trains to Epping Forest, Broxbourne and Rye House, and a special service of trains will be run from Liverpool Street every ten minutes to Chingford, every half hour to Loughton, and at frequent intervals to Broxbourne and Rye House. An early train will leave Ipswich, Clacton, Walton, Colchester, &c., on Tuesday, 31st March, for the accommodation of persons wishing to return to London by nine a.m.

### COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY. TWENTY-FOURTH COMPETITION.

*A Book or Books of the value of One Guinea will be awarded for an Essay upon a subject to be announced next week.*

#### RULES.

1.—Contributions must reach the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, not later than Saturday, April 11th, 1891, addressed as follows:—"Prize Essay Competition, THE NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C."

2.—Manuscript must be written distinctly in ink and on one side of the paper only, upon not less than 24 nor more than 48 pages of ordinary-sized ruled sermon paper. The pages must be numbered and fastened together.

3.—The real and full name and address (stating whether Miss or Mrs.) of the Competitor must be inscribed on the back of each contribution, and notification of which Hospital or Institution the Competitor has been or is attached to.

4.—Trained Nurses or those personally associated with Nursing work only allowed to compete.

Winners in previous Competitions are permitted to compete, but in case of a "tie" the prize would be awarded to the Competitor who has not secured a prize before.

The decision of the Prize Essay Editor to be final, and any infringement of the above Rules will be considered a disqualification.

NOTICE.—The Prize Essay Editor will not undertake to return MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope; and in no case will he be responsible for any loss of same during transmission, &c. In no case must manuscripts be rolled up when sent by post; they must be folded.

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