

of the Messrs. Ryan, Secretaries at these two Institutions. We must premise that we have more than once been compelled to criticise severely the proceedings of the Hospitals' Association, with which Mr. Thomas Ryan is, we believe, intimately connected. While this may explain the behaviour of the Messrs. Ryan, we consider that if they objected to our criticism, they should have contested the accuracy of our statements, but that they have no possible justification for using their official positions to show their resentment, and absolutely no right to indite, in that capacity, the following correspondence to a public paper. In April last, for some reason, one or more copies of this Journal seem to have been sent by our Manager to Mr. Thos. Ryan, our first knowledge of the fact, that this courtesy had been shown him, being obtained from the following letter:—

"St. Mary's Hospital,  
"Paddington, London, W.,  
"20th April, 1891.

"To the Editor *Nursing Record*."

"Madam,—Kindly discontinue sending me free copies of *The Nursing Record*. I do not desire to see it; if I did, my pecuniary resources limited though they be are not so slender as to preclude the possibility of my paying for it. As an additional incentive to you to cease the free distribution of the paper, so far as I am concerned, I may remark that my objection to its tone and general characteristics is too strong for me to waive it in consideration of copies 'free gratis for nothing.'—I am, &c., THOMAS RYAN."

This delightfully Hibernian method of repaying a courtesy amused us for a moment, and the incident then passed from our mind; to be abruptly recalled some two months later, when it appears that our Publishers applied, by means of our usual printed form, to St. Mary's Hospital for an advertisement, and we received the following further example of Mr. Thomas Ryan's literary style:—

"St. Mary's Hospital,  
"Paddington, London, W.,  
"25th June, 1891.

"To the Editor *Nursing Record*."

"Madam,—Thanks for your letter. I regret we are not able to avail ourselves of your kind offer to advertise in your periodical.—Yours faithfully,  
"THOMAS RYAN, Secretary.

"P.S.—It is to be regretted that you trade under false pretences in stating that St. Mary's Hospital subscribes to *The Nursing Record*. St. Mary's Hospital has never subscribed to it."

Loefflund's Hordeum Compounds.—C. Pepsin (in dyspepsia), c. Iron in chlorosis, anaemia, jaundice, pleasant and digestible for ladies and children), c. Quinine (an excellent tonic in neuralgia, nervous headache, and debility), C. Lime (—hypophosphite, in rickets, scrofulosis, very digestible). 3s. 6d. R. Baeiz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

This was a trifle too much for our patience, and we, therefore, called upon Mr. Ryan to withdraw his offensive statement immediately, pointing out that our circular did not make the statement which he ascribed to us, but merely quoted St. Mary's Hospital as being amongst the hundreds of other Institutions, throughout the country, in which we had subscribers and readers. In reply to this peremptory demand, we received, at once, the following characteristic letter, to which we sent the subsequent reply:—

"St. Mary's Hospital,  
"Paddington, London, W.,  
"27th June, 1891.

"As the Editor of *The Nursing Record* states in plain terms that the circular sent to the Secretary a few days back does not state that St. Mary's Hospital subscribes to *The Nursing Record*, nothing remains for him but to withdraw the statement that it does and that its doing so is a false pretence.

"Nothing but this statement, however, would have led the Secretary to imagine that his first view of the meaning of the whole announcement, beginning with the words, 'Important to advertisers,' was not correct. He does not approve of the way that announcement is drawn up; and whatever may be meant, he has no doubt the effect is to mislead. He hopes, however, that the imposing list of Hospitals will not mislead anyone."

"St. Dunstan's House,  
"Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

"July 3, 1891.

"Sir,—I have been unable before to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ult., in which you very promptly, and very wisely, though very reluctantly, withdraw the deliberate and absolutely groundless statement, made in your communication of the 25th, 'that *The Nursing Record* trades under false pretences.'

"By this retraction you have saved yourself much expense and trouble.

"As you are not a subscriber to *The Nursing Record*, I venture to think and assert that the proper time for you to express disapproval or approval of the business attitude, or the Editorial policy, of this Journal, would have arrived at the time when your opinion had been solicited upon the matter. If, however, I might be equally presumptuous with you, and express an uninvited disapproval, I would say that I do not approve of the paid servant of any public Institution going

Loefflund's Alpine Milk Rusks (ground) ensure the most perfect development of bone and muscle in growing children from 6 months to 2 years of age. Prevents rickets, scurvy, and ensures healthy progress at the most critical period. Invaluable in teething. 1s. 6d. R. Baeiz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)