

not a pain—is by no means an easy task. The wholesale style of management indulged in, and in some degree inevitable in our large Hospitals, must be studiously avoided in dealing with private patients. Each individual temperament must be carefully considered, and each appetite studied; and this can only be done by the head of the Home herself being scrupulously careful to set her subordinates an example of attention to details. Attention to details is the only lubricant for institution wheels; without it, good management and comfort is impossible. No woman without instinctive sympathy, and, in consequence, a refined nature, ever made a good Nurse; therefore the Nurses must be carefully selected. Let them be first of all quite true (this attribute combines all the cardinal virtues), skilled in the practice of their profession, educated in voice and manner. Truthfulness by itself, alone, makes beautiful the expression, and the shape of the features is immaterial. No woman, however intellectual, can make an efficient superintendent, if she does not possess the talent of organisation, and in consequence, an orderly mind. I should also like to lay great stress on the fact that she should be a thoroughly-trained Nurse in all its branches. A slipshod and untidy superintendent means a slipshod and untidy household; and in such a household good Nursing is never attained. Rules and regulations must be carefully considered; and each worker—Superintendent, Nurse, and domestic—must perform her routine duties by rule. She will have ample opportunity for exercising her individuality in her daily intercourse with patients and fellow-workers. "A place for everything and everything in its place" is a good motto for a Nurse all the world over, and deviation from this system invariably produces waste of time and confusion. The greater the responsibility, the greater need for self-abnegation and self-conquest. No woman who hopes to control women's labour with success, in however small a degree, can remain self-indulgent. The majority of women are easily fired by example to great deeds of heroism, and unselfish devotion to duty; they are as easily degraded to sloth and slovenly inexactitude by lax administration. The best Superintendent is the woman who compels the respect of her subordinates.—Yours, &c.,

MATRONA.

P.S.—In describing the necessary furniture for a sick room, I omitted to mention the screen. This is quite indispensable, and should be light

HUDSON'S HALF-MINUTE THERMOMETERS, 2s. 6d., free by post. Hudson's Clinical Thermometer for Practitioners, Nurses, and Hospitals, 2s. 6d., free by post. Kew Certificates, 1s. 6d. each extra. Hudson and Co., Opticians and Patentees, 5, Crosby Square, London, E.C. Write for Medical Press Opinions<sup>1</sup>

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and washable. A bamboo frame, covered with chintz, is the most convenient.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

SIR,—Permit me to draw your attention to a printer's error in my letter, which appears in your columns to-day. On page 249, second column, line 37, "clean sheet" should have been "clean draw sheet." Things were bad enough, in all conscience, but not so bad in this way as the printer makes me say.—Yours faithfully,  
Nov. 12, 1891. W. S.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I feel I should not be doing my duty as a Nurse in one of the Nursing Homes in London, if I did not say a few words, in order to let your readers see, that all Nursing homes are not *Shams*, like the one set forth in your last issue, by one who signs her Name as "W. S."

I must say if I had been "W. S." I should not have waited 12 months ere I let the world know of my sufferings. I do hope your readers will give the case there serious consideration, before they condemn such valuable Institutions. If the home referred to is still there I hope it has changed hands, and that we shall never hear of such again. I can't imagine, 'who' the *celebrated* London Surgeon can be, that had the *time*, and the desire to do a *Nurses work*, such as fishing up the *patient* from the bottom of the bed, and asking for a clean sheet (and not getting it) and making the said bed for 7 days and allowing the sheets to remain on his *patient* for a whole *month*: whoever heard the like *before*. If I knew who he was, I for one would give him a wide berth, and not *Nurse* for *him*, I do hope he takes your paper, and reads my opinion of him, I don't think he comes here. This home is Noted for cleanliness, order, and good Nursing, and our patients comes from all parts of the world.

Had I been "W. S." I should have insisted on a change of Nurse at once. I am very sorry to hear of such Nurses, and what I can't understand is any Institution keeping such unsuitable persons, for such Noble work. If all such were weeded out, of our profession there would be plenty of work for all good Nurses that Nurse for the love of the work only. I have no doubt other Nurses will write you and stand up for their rights. I have had 17 years experience as a trained Nurse in all its branches, both in Hospitals, private families, and in this Nursing home, so I am no novice in the work, hoping you will find space for my few remarks I remain yours truly  
COMMON SENSE.

[We have not presumed to alter our correspondent's grammar and spelling.—ED.]

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