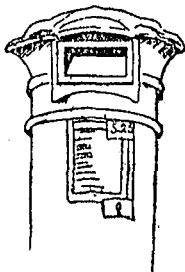


sciousness of deserving admiration. This young American generation, living its hotel life, with no duties and no object but dressing itself and being admired, is a startling phenomenon."

When you get another half-day go and have a look at the picture galleries. I'm sure Sister Damian will approve of such a mode of recreation. Mr. Herbert Schmalz's painting, "The Return from Calvary," at Dowdeswell's, is drawing numbers of visitors; the smaller paintings at the same gallery are of importance, as illustrating places and names which are familiar to everybody, and in giving a good idea of the costumes and appearance of the people in the Holy Land. You will find the result of Mr. W. W. May's second summer on the coast of Norway at Messrs. Buck and Reid's; and Mr. Frank Dicksee is showing a number of his designs illustrative of Shakespeare's "Othello," at Mr. Mendoza's Black and White Exhibition. It is said they are the best illustrations this artist has done.

I hear that Mr. W. S. Gilbert and Mr. George Grossmith have been working together on a new musical comedy, which is soon to be produced by Mr. Horace Sedger, at the Prince of Wales's Theatre. This will not be Mr. Grossmith's first musical composition for the stage, inasmuch as some operettas from his pen have already obtained a hearing in London. It is to be hoped the rumour is true. Genuine fun seems on the decrease, or can it be a case of "my grandmother's cuckoo"? I am longing to see you, dear little sister, and hope to do so early next week. I go to town on the 2nd, and wish you could come with us to the *Conversazione* of the Royal British Nurses' Association. I hear it is always such a picturesque sight. *Au revoir.*

JEAN.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

We shall be happy to answer, as far as we can, all questions submitted to us.

ASYLUM NURSING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I fully endorse the remarks made in the letter you reprint from the *Woman's Herald*, in your issue of *The Nursing Record* of November 12. Having been engaged for the last seventeen years in the care of the

mentally afflicted, nine years of which time was passed in a large Private Asylum, where I suppose the management was as good, or better, than is usually found in such establishments, I have often been grieved at the—I will not say unkind—but certainly most unskilled, treatment of the unfortunate sufferers. It would be an immense improvement in such Institutions if they had a thoroughly trained lady to superintend each department, as the "Sisters" in Hospital Wards. I am much surprised more ladies have not taken up this most interesting, though anxious, work. I am quite sure that even at their worst times (and I have had many very severe cases, both in public institutions and private Nursing) the patients are conscious of, and more amenable to, a sympathetic Nurse. I think one reason ladies do not like the work is through fear of bodily injury, but I can safely say I have never been hurt or injured by any of my patients. I am very glad to see this matter being taken up, as it has often struck me how much the mental department has been overlooked in the Nursing world.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

SYMPATHY.

HOME HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I do not wish to trespass unnecessarily upon your valuable space, but I think the majority of your readers will agree with me that the *tone* of the letter published last week and signed "Common Sense" is the most convincing argument that could be used that my complaint is justifiable. The coarse self-assertiveness of the writer, with her total lack of sympathy for a fellow creature's suffering, when the exposition of that suffering wounds her own *amour propre*, or, as she expresses it, "her rights," is typical of a certain class of so-called Nurse. It may interest "Common Sense" still further to know that at my request my Nurse was changed, the Lady Superintendent at the same time remarking, "I will change your Nurse, but I can listen to no complaints. I have perfect faith in my Nurses." Mine, as you will remember, had never been in the house before. The greeting of my second Nurse was forcible, if not polite. She entered the room, banged the door behind her, walked close up to the edge of my bed, and informed me of the self-evident fact that "I have come. I know my duty. I don't wish to be taught." And later on she brusquely flouted the idea of washing me, and it was this treatment which braced me up to leaving the establishment.

I quite agree with "Common Sense" that it is very unlikely the "celebrated London Surgeon" to whom I owe my life is known to her, and I feel sure she need have no fear of his insisting upon retaining her valuable services for his patients, as I know him to be a humane man, who values sympathy and tact above all other qualities in the Nurses he employs.—Yours faithfully,

W. S.

P.S.—I should like to endorse the opinion of your able correspondent, "Matrona," that only women trained and skilled in every branch of Nursing should be permitted to have charge of Home Hospitals.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—With your kind permission I will gladly avail myself of the opportunity of expressing my views as regards Home Hospitals. Fortunately for me, mine was a most happy experience, differing vastly from that of your correspondent, "W. S." The Nursing Home in which I resided as a patient five weeks, is, in every sense of the word, a Home. The principal devotes herself untiringly to the patients who place themselves under her care, not treating them merely as cases, interesting and uninteresting, but as suffering fellow creatures. She being a thoroughly Trained Nurse, having had vast experience (public and private), is admirably adapted to manage the Home Hospital she estab-

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