

lished some years ago, and which is visited by many eminent Medical men, who are well satisfied to entrust most serious cases to her care. The Nurses are indeed Nurses (not make-believes), and not only endeavour, but also succeed, in following the example set them by their high-principled and conscientious mistress in showing every attention, kindness, and courtesy to the suffering ones committed to their charge. Owing to the competent assistance of a friend, who enters most interestedly into every detail of the management, the domestic arrangements are admirable; the cooking is excellent. In taking friends to call upon the principal, the remarks have constantly been, "What a bright, charming house! Who would ever imagine there was so much suffering here!" "Well, when I am ill, I shall come to — House." It is not, in my opinion, the reformation of Home Hospitals which is necessary, but rather the entire abolition of Homes (?) such as described by "W. S.," which are not worthy the name of "Home" or "Hospital," being merely "expensive lodging houses for the sick."—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

SYMPATHISER OF SUFFERING.

[We have been obliged to delete the name of the Homes mentioned in the above and in other letters, as we cannot allow any praise or dispraise of any particular Institution.—ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—May I be allowed a short space in your paper this week? Being greatly interested in this subject of Home Hospitals, I should be glad to mention a few of my ideas, which have been formed after two years' work in a Nursing Home.

These establishments which claim our attention, are many in number, and may be classed as good, bad, and indifferent, the last class predominating. The house selected should be in a convenient position for the Doctors, and, if possible, in a quiet street where the traffic won't disturb patients. The

sanitary arrangements must be perfect, and an unlimited supply of hot and cold water laid on. Speaking-tubes from each landing to the kitchen save time and labour, and a lift to take up the meals, coals, &c., would be found of the greatest use, and more especially where a manservant is not kept.

The house should be fitted with electric light (if the expense isn't too serious), as a room lighted in that way has a much pleasanter atmosphere, and is more healthy than with gas.

A small room on the ground floor should be set apart for the Doctors, where they can consult, leave their hats, leather bags, &c., and so prevent any confusion or inconvenience, which may arise where the hall is not a very spacious one. This room would also serve as a waiting-room for visitors who come in numbers to inquire or to see their less fortunate brethren who lie *hors de combat*.

I should then select a small room (the most central of the bedrooms) to be fitted up as a kitchen, where the crockery and silver can be washed and kept, and where for special diets a Nurse may make tea, barley water, or any little thing requiring very particular attention. For instance, a patient who cannot digest food is ordered to drink *boiled* milk and the Nurse is responsible for such orders being carried out; the milk may be sent up from the kitchen as *boiled*, when it has only been made *hot*, and the Nurse may have her doubts about it, but she has no means of proving them. I believe in the maxim "If you want a thing done, do it yourself," and hence the Nurses' kitchen would be invaluable. It should be furnished so that the Nurses may sit there when they are not required in the patients' rooms, rather than on the stairs and landings, and, as a means of communication, electric bells should ring there from each patient's room. I am convinced that a room set apart for such purposes would greatly add to the comfort of both patients and Nurses.

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Extract from "The Queen."

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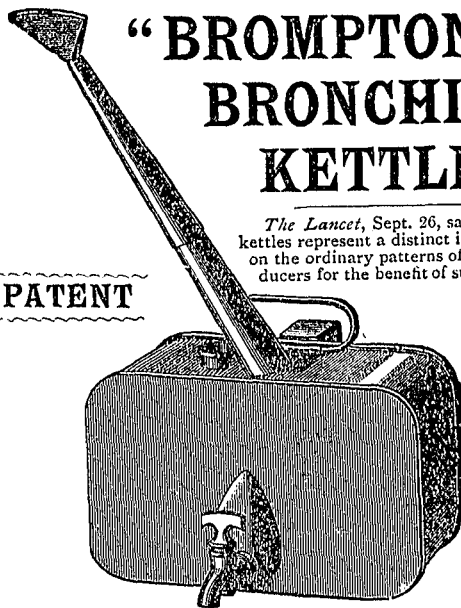


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