

On the furnishing of the house, "Matrona" gives excellent advice, but I should like to mention one or two things. The *bedsteads* should be of brass with *perpendicular* bars, in preference to transverse ones, because with the latter style, the pillows are liable to slip through instead of forming a firm support for the patient. The bedding should include *two* pillows, one a hard one, and the other not too soft. Bolsters, I always find are a great nuisance, and so many people prefer to be without them. These are only details in Nursing, but it is only by practical experience that such things can be learnt, and I hope they may be of some little use to Sister Catherine or others.

Whether a Nursing Home is to be successful in its career or not, depends entirely on the management of it. Good Nursing and housekeeping are two essentials, and the Matron must have a combined knowledge of both, or how is she to direct her Staff? We must aim at perfection, and that is only to be attained by steady perseverance and industry.

"Rome wasn't built in a day," and we cannot mount the ladder except step by step.

About the Nursing, I shall leave others to speak. It is a subject in itself and one which requires the closest attention. Yours faithfully,

H. T.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—If you will permit me, I should like to tell you what *my* experience of a "Nursing Home" has been. I cannot plead experience as "a patient," but as a Nurse attached to the outside Staff, and occasionally taking "inside" cases, I have had many opportunities of seeing "behind the scenes," and knowing how exceptional such a case as "W. S.'s" must be, it wounds one's *esprit de corps* to think of Nursing Homes in general being judged and condemned by one particular instance of gross mismanagement and neglect.

My wonder is that such a "Home" (save the mark!) as

"W. S." describes is still allowed to exist. Putting aside all question of personal comfort and convenience, we all know what an absolute *necessity*, in *all* cases, is scrupulous cleanliness in the patients' surroundings, most especially so in surgical cases; and the evident state of "mis-rule" and utter incompetency in the establishment "W. S." was unfortunate to be an inmate of, proves that, on *sanitary* grounds, if on no other, it should at once be either re-organised or suppressed.

About the "Nurse" (?) I am almost afraid to speak, lest my strong indignation should "run away with me." "*Vox populi vox Dei*," they say, and the universal condemnation of the type of "Nurse" "W. S." was inflicted with *must* ultimately lead to her complete extinction. In these days, when in Nursing, as in all else, competition is so keen that the "*weakest*" must go to the wall, there is no room for such an anomaly as "the incompetent Nurse." It is women of her description who bring discredit on our profession—the profession that every true Nurse must hold to be among "the best and noblest"—and make it hard for those who come after them to win the trust and confidence they are entitled to.

The Home in which *my* experience has been gained is such a direct contrast to "W. S.'s," that one hardly likes to speak of it in the same breath. If cleanliness be "next to godliness," then here there is little left to be desired, for even the London fogs fail to leave traces of their visitation. Everything goes so smoothly that it is only those "behind the scenes" who can realise the constant care and forethought needed to keep the machinery in perfect order.

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