

Nursing, not a house." When convalescent she told this story with great glee and gratitude.—Yours faithfully,

MATRONA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—The correspondence concerning Home Hospitals, at present going on in the columns of your paper, interests me extremely. I may state that it was in one of these valuable Institutions that I first made the acquaintance of *The Nursing Record*; and I and my husband (who is on the Committee of one of our largest Hospitals) have found it of inestimable use during the past year in forming our opinions on Nursing politics. The manner in which *The Nursing Record* advocates the organisation of the Nursing profession, and thereby advocates justice to a still ignorant and long-suffering public, demands public recognition and thanks. I should like also to publicly express my very sincere gratitude for the treatment I received during my residence in a "Home Hospital," where I underwent a severe internal operation. Nothing could have been more admirable than the *system* upon which I was nursed. I paid ten guineas a week, and consider that price very reasonable for what I received in return. Upon entering the Home I somehow imagined that I should have one Nurse; that she would sleep in my room. But upon my arrival, the Lady Superintendent gently explained what long experience had taught her to be the *right* and most efficient method of arranging for the comfort of what she termed major operations. Two Special Nurses would be allotted to look after me—one on night, one on day duty. "You must be as well nursed by night as by day. One woman cannot do justice to a critical case for more than twelve consecutive hours; and those who deny the truth of this assertion have a faulty idea of what true Nursing means." I learnt later, by experience, the truth of her words, and it was with

a sense of secret relief, during the long watches of several painful, restless nights, that I knew that my kind little Night Nurse, always so silent, so alert, so daintily fresh, had spent the day in bed, and was not too weary to attend to my many wants. After twelve long hours' anxious care and attention during the day, how can it be possible for a woman to remain active in body and mind, and nurse efficiently during the night. It seems to me a cruel and unjustifiable system, and one that should be strenuously discouraged by surgeon and patient.

In my convalescence, I became deeply interested in the organisation of the "Home," and had many long and interesting talks with the Lady Directress concerning Nursing matters. Before I left, I became quite *au fait* with the burning subject of Registration of Trained Nurses, the only antidote to Nurse-sweating; co-operation; the more efficient organisation of Nurse Training Schools, and, in consequence, the more complete curriculum of a Nurse's education. I am surprised sometimes to think how intensely ignorant I was on these matters before my operation, and how important it appears to me now that all good citizens should make themselves thoroughly acquainted with these subjects. In following the course of the great question of Nursing reform in the public Press during the past year, I was interested to read that the Superintendents of several Nursing Homes were keenly antagonistic to the protection of the public from semi-trained Nurses. Why? If these ladies only employ thoroughly-trained Nurses, and only supply such women to the public in need of Nurses, what is their objection to Registration, which is clearly only a guarantee to the public of the Nurses' efficiency? I, and others, are really curious to know the reason, and perhaps one of your readers can answer my question?—Yours, &c.,  
W. L. B.

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