

WHERE TO GO.

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LETTERS FROM LIFE.—No. 13.

Great Eastern Hospital.

DEAREST JEAN,—Ever since I wrote to you, I have been on duty in Damian Ward, and have been very happy and contented in my work. Sister Damian's characteristics are rare, for she compels one's admiration and respect. One is attracted by her beauty, fascinated by her brilliancy, and positively enslaved by her sweet, genuine goodness. She is so fearlessly, beautifully true, that, with all her charms, I can imagine her inspiring intense fear and hatred in those whose motives are not pure, and who seek their ends by ignoble means. Nurse Carew says, "The personality of Sister Damian consoles one for having been born a woman." This interesting, green-eyed creature has been genuinely kind to me, in spite of her strange, absorbed habits; though I must own I do not quite understand her. As she sits now on the edge of her bed,

combing her long dark hair, her level brows contracted, her eyes half closed, I feel that I am alone. The thin, little body is fettered, the perishable clay is here, but the vital force—the spirit—the real woman is free: the cramped space of this little, stuffy room is no sphere for aught so intangible.

Why was one made with feet? You have no idea how obtrusive they become in a Hospital—so hot and swollen; mine are most insubordinate, and remind me constantly that they will not trot up and down on bare boards all day without a protest. Numbers of Nurses get partially flat-footed with the long-continued standing. This cannot be *right*, as many women come here, in perfect health, for the purpose of earning a living, and the conditions of their labour should be compatible with health. You should see how some of my colleagues gape when I give vent to these simple sentiments. Taken collectively, these women are a *pulpy mass!*

Monday, five a.m.—It is several days since I began my letter, dear Jean. For the last hour I have felt bitterly indignant and volcanic, and it is useless to try and sleep, so I will relieve myself by "erupting" on paper.

I was so worn out last night that I dropped off to sleep as soon as my head was on the pillow.

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