



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Notes, Queries, &amp;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.*

## HOME HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I am much pleased to observe that you have opened a correspondence in your valuable columns on the subject of Home Hospitals. There is no branch of Nursing, in my judgment, which requires so much, and so thorough, reformation. My experience has been that of many of my colleagues and friends. I have treated patients in the last fifteen years in about a dozen different Homes, and, until last year, when I fortunately heard of — House, and was still more fortunate enough to obtain admission for my patients into that admirable Home, I suffered endless anxiety and annoyance in consequence. Let me tell you only one of my experiences. One night I arrived in town from a country consultation, and, driving from the station, passed a Home where I had a patient very ill with pneumonia. An extraordinary and sudden impulse made me stop to inquire how he was progressing. It was about twelve o'clock, but, to my surprise, I had to knock and ring for about twenty minutes before I could obtain admission. I had always previously imagined that Nursing Homes had Night Nurses, who were awake when they were

on duty. There were seven patients that night in that Home, but I found that the only Nurse on duty was with my case. Unable to gain any information from the servant who finally opened the door, I went up to his room, and found him lying unconscious on the floor. I got him back to bed with some difficulty, and then looked for the Nurse. She was wrapped up on the couch, in front of the fire, asleep and heavily snoring. I spent the next ten minutes in ringing the bell and attempting to resuscitate my patient, for he was quite collapsed, and probably had been wandering about his room before he fainted. At last the manageress appeared—a very charming and most suave person. I reported the matter, pointed out the snoring figure by the fire, and was met by the calm reply, "Dear me! I am sure Nurse will not go to sleep again if you tell her you wish her to keep awake the whole night." From subsequent inquiries I learnt that this good lady had never been in a Hospital in her life. I have never since entered a Home which was not superintended by a Trained Nurse, and I have often marvelled how I, formerly, and many medical men, now, entrust their own reputations and their patients' lives to Homes kept by people who know nothing about Nursing, and worked by Nurses of whose capacity they must know less; women who do what they please, when they please, and how they please.—I enclose my card, but beg to sign myself only, yours faithfully,

M. D.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—In every well-organised Home Hospital there should be a Superintendent who will undertake duties in connection with the domestic and secretarial department, and a Sister or Head Nurse, whose principal duty it should be to superintend the Nursing. Either the one or the other of these ladies should always be on duty during the day, and a thoroughly trained and experienced Nurse must always be on duty at

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