

young Nursing readers, (and this eight hours' question is one of paramount importance to them) if I bring before their notice the very great "outsiders" lost to us now, but living for ever in the hearts and minds of their fellow countrymen.

I will begin with that true philanthropist, the Earl of Shaftesbury, of some 20 years ago, who identified his high historic name with a measure of greater historic fame, one of infinite mercy to the employed, called the Ten Hours Bill! Words cannot describe the torrents of invective, of sarcasm, of wrath that were poured upon that devoted head by the vested classes. For instance: "What did he, a Peer of the Realm, know about brick-making? What was it to do with him for how long or how hard the women worked in the field! Better mind his own business and leave sensible and practical brickmakers to theirs," and so on. The dauntless Earl persisted in his course, and the Ten Hours Bill was passed by the Lords. Since then Factory Acts have been enacted, and at this time were I to put forth an imposing brass plate bearing the legend "Dress-Making Establishment" (the aforesaid consisting of one back-bedroom and two young 'prentice girls) I should be brought within their range, and in due course might expect the honour of a visit from H.M. Inspector of Factories in the interests of the P. G.'s touching the number of hours (leg a or otherwise) I employed my apprentices upon those exquisite "confections" we were preparing with all possible speed for the approaching Bank Holiday. My plea of "stress" would have but little weight with that inexorable official.

Hospital Committees are employers of labour; is it fair or consistent they should be exempt from state control, free to pursue a policy of secrecy, when all other employers are subject to a perfect blaze of publicity? This point cannot remain for long in abeyance, as it bears upon the interests of the Nursing profession. I will take next HARRIET BEECHER

STOWE, the fearless and peerless denouncer of slave labour and all its wrongs and ways. What vials of wrath, of hate, of abuse, were poured upon her book. "The writer knew nothing about the subject—the Negro was the happiest of human beings, and slavery a Divine Ordination!" It matters not: the great tale went forth to all lands, and brought rage to the hearts and tears to the eyes of millions of our fellow creatures. Negro slavery was abolished, but not by Slavonia.

I am, dear sir, yours truly,

JUSTITIA.

July 23rd, 1892.

[WE have received a number of communications on this subject, for which we much regret we cannot find space at present. But we must point out to our much esteemed correspondent, that she has been asked to explain how her theory could be carried out in practice, having regard to the patients' welfare. The principle of shorter hours for Nurses is generally admitted, but the best authorities say that 9½ to 10 hours is the minimum possible. "Justitia" says eight is possible, and it will be most interesting to see how she proves it to be so.—ED.]

Replies to Correspondents.

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(b.) All associated with Nursing work are accepted as candidates, but in case of a "tie" a subscriber will naturally have preference, and for this reason each candidate must mention at the bottom of the post-card "I am a subscriber," or "I obtain THE NURSING RECORD from—"

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