

land. I am quite convinced that a long hospital training is by no means an unmixed advantage in private nursing; it stands to reason that work must be done in a more rough and ready way, and with less regard to whims and fancies than is agreeable to a nervous, delicate lady. But the real difficulty lies elsewhere. An Institution engages a probationer and undertakes the whole expense of her year's training, *i.e.* wages, fees, uniform, journeys,—on condition that she works for the Institution for two years afterwards. To this the probationers are bound by contract; but, if they are to spend three years in Hospital, who is to pay for them? and if it were possible for the Institution to do so, how would it be re-imbursed for its outlay? and what would be the remedy if during those years the probationer died, or married, or gave up the work. Were the Institutions compelled to give up probationers, and only engage trained Nurses, they would have to raise their terms to the public, and this would press heavily on poor gentlefolks and middle-class persons generally. In this Institution, and, I believe, in many similar ones, Nurses are often sent to such persons either free of charge, or at half or less, of the ordinary fee, and this is to many—the clergy especially—an unspeakable boon. Of course, in what I have now said, I refer entirely to private Nursing; and a Matron, if she is at all fitted for her post does not send a young inexperienced Nurse to a serious case, unless under the superintendence of an older one, should two or more be required.—I am, yours,
A. E. D.

THE POST CARD EXAMINATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR SIR,—Many thanks for the books received this morning. I am very pleased indeed with them,—Believe me, yours faithfully,
GERTRUDE KNOTT.

LETTERS FROM LIFE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I do not want to say anything against Miss Phyllis Graham, for she is, I think, a very clever writer, and must have been a Nurse, and I do not want to deny that such things as she describes are true, because I have myself seen or heard of just the same things or worse. I must say, though, that I do hope you will not print any more of her letters, because they make people very angry and bitter against Hospitals, and they think that all Hospitals are such bad places as the Great Eastern. I have been abroad with a patient, and in two large hotels—one in Nice, and one in London, I saw people reading *The Nursing Record*, and heard them talking against Hospitals, and saying they were all like the Great Eastern, and that they would never subscribe to one where the Nurses were so badly treated. "Death traps for working women" one gentleman called them. Now, you know this is not true, except of a few, and so I hope Miss Phyllis Graham will stop writing.—Yours respectfully,
ELLEN C. H. GALE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I have read Phyllis's letter to Jean (in your last issue) with great regret. Your paper might be such a valuable one, and is, in many respects. But when you accept a letter from a probationer who herself acknowledges that she has been guilty of almost unpardonable rudeness and insubordination to the Sister in charge of the Ward, and in the presence of the patients whom she has undertaken to minister to, do you not think she (Phyllis) brings discredit on the Nursing Profession and on your Paper? I am speaking quite as an outsider, I have never been inside the Great Eastern Hospital. I have not seen the Matron or the Sister of Matthew Ward. So I am not in a position to defend them.

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