

if there is more work, the Matron should be paid more. If the increased expenditure be a question of extravagance, it is the duty of the Managers to see that public money is not wasted. It certainly is not logical or fair to waste money in one direction, and try to equalise matters by giving the Matron less than is fair.

In justice to the Matron of the Infirmary, I would say that I have no acquaintance with her, and do not even know her name. I simply judge from the newspaper account of the meeting, and it seems to me the arguments used were weak and unfair.

Sincerely yours,

JUSTICE TO ALL.

SIXPENNY FARTHING A VISIT!

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I think the letter on above subject is the best answer to an accusation which is often brought against Nurses—that they enter the profession only with a view to making money out of it. In a recent issue of the NURSING RECORD there was a letter headed "The Mercenary Nurse," in which a doctor expressed the utmost horror at a Nurse considering for one moment the financial outlook of her calling. When Nurses are willing to pay sixpenny-farthling visits, it would certainly seem as if the accusation of mercenary and self-seeking motives cannot stand.

Not that I allow for one moment the idea that Nurses should do their work for nothing. I consider any woman who sells her services for anything below a fair market value, is doing a great wrong and injury to her fellow-workers, for which I think there is no excuse. A Nurse should be perfectly business-like and clear-headed where her own interests are concerned. And she will frequently need to exercise her commercial talents, or she will go to the wall.

Another letter in the RECORD is instructive on *this* point. I allude to that written by an Obstetric Nurse, wherein she complained that a patient who had engaged her for a confinement case, absolutely refused her any monetary compensation because the birth was premature and another Nurse was called in.

It will never do to allow that idea to creep into our ranks that the ordinary business methods of life—which in average people are not only taken as a matter of course, but are commended—become, when employed by the Nurse, sordid and mercenary. A Nurse should take care to place her calling on a thoroughly business-like footing, and entirely reject the poor sentiment which would make it a noble thing to nurse the rich sick without payment!

Sincerely yours,

A BUSINESS-LIKE NURSE.

THE NURSES' HOME OF REST AT BRIGHTON.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to be allowed, through the medium of the NURSING RECORD, to add my testimony to that of your correspondent last week, concerning the "Home of Rest" at Brighton.

Surely those who, like myself, have had the privilege of paying several visits there must feel what a great debt of gratitude we owe in the first place, to those by whose care and thought such a "Home" was founded

and so splendidly organised. It is so essentially a "Home of Rest," for no one can have stayed there for more than a day without being wonderfully impressed by the sense of peace, and calm, and relaxation which pervades the house.

Such a complete rest is a most difficult thing to find in this world of ours, with its rush, and tear, and universal restlessness, and to a tired worker it seems to be the one real refreshment needed.

It is not easy to find expressions to explain what gives this sense of repose, but to any one who has not had the privilege I have had, I would say, "Go and see the house, see the drawing-room which speaks of exquisite taste, comfort and ease, the dining-room, where, besides the cheerful meetings for meals, letters can be written undisturbed; or perhaps best of all, the cosy bedrooms, which at all times of the year seem to remind you of the spring, they are so bright and sweet.

And now add to these comforts what perhaps is the real secret of the happiness experienced by those who stay in the "Home," and that is the presence of the Matron. Hers is an influence which makes itself felt, it seems to fill the house, you cannot picture discord entering for one moment under her gentle but firm rule. From her welcome to the fresh arrival, to her unbounded sympathy for all who ask for it, she does indeed bring rest to the weary, and happiness to those in need of relaxation.

I am always reminded when I go to 12, Sussex Square, of that sweet little book "The Brotherhood of Rest," for it might well be known as the "Sisterhood of Rest," and when you know how little it costs, and how the results far more than repay you, my only wonder is that the applications for admission are not far more numerous even than they already are.

I have ventured to write thus about the "Home of Rest" because like most of the good works carried on for others in the world, it appears to me to be done "not openly but in secret," and I cannot help wishing that its fruits were far more widely known than they are. The good result of even one week's such perfect rest must be impossible to trace.

Yours faithfully,

A REFRESHED WORKER.

A NURSES' WARD.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was very much taken with the suggestion made lately in the RECORD, that one of the London Hospitals should have a small ward with a few endowed beds for sick Nurses.

There are, doubtless, amongst your readers many private Nurses working like myself, who have experienced the misery of being ill in rooms and Homes, and it is not possible, under such circumstances, to get either the best medical advice or Nursing.

I know that the general Hospitals are very good in admitting private Nurses into the general wards, but how much more private and comfortable it would be if we could be certain of a bed in a "Nurses' Ward." Many of us would be able to pay something towards maintaining it both in sickness and in health, and no doubt we could arouse interest in such a good cause amongst our wealthy patients.

So many of our large Training Schools have a most comfortable sick-room for the Nursing staff, that one feels it all the more when ill when doing private Nursing, that unless one pays more than a Nurse can afford, one must enter the general ward.

Yours gratefully,

PRIVATE NURSE.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)