

weeks since, in the description of her first sphere of work. The biographer says "her first practical work was, we believe, in Harley-street, in connexion with the Governesses Sanatorium." Miss Nightingale was Lady Superintendent of this House, and started from here for the Crimea; but it is in no sense a sanatorium for governesses, but an Institution to afford all the advantages of a Hospital to poor gentlewomen, and arranged on such lines as will make them comfortable. On our medical staff, are the names of some of the first Physicians and Surgeons in London, who generously give their services. It is, in fact, a Home Hospital, and we take in all such cases, as would in a lower rank of life, go into the women's wards of a General Hospital, and our rooms are constantly filled by some of the most serious medical and surgical cases, who are Nursed by duly qualified and Trained Nurses.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
 FLORENCE MEYRICK,  
 Lady Superintendent.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—There is no doubt from the innumerable complaints one hears on all sides, that in large hospitals, where the number of nurses to be provided for is great, that still much remains to be done to make the diet satisfactory. I hope, therefore, you may have space in your valuable paper to print several essays on this most important subject. The Housekeeper in a large Hospital has many difficulties to contend with. First, all the food is generally contracted for, and is in consequence seldom of the best quality—in fact, from personal experience I have no hesitation in stating that under these circumstances unless one makes almost daily complaints of either one tradesman or another, an inferior article is supplied, and deteriorates from week to week. If one had only the power to go to the shop and choose the food, and there and then cart it away, there might be some hope of obtaining a satisfactory supply. Coarse-grained meat, stale eggs, butter, far from fresh, and vegetables which have been parted from mother earth for several days, are often delivered, and under my *regime* were speedily returned whence they came with no flattering comment. Again, where Nurses mess together in great numbers—say from 30 to 40 at one table—it is almost hopeless to try and serve all while the food is hot, or to consult each individual appetite as one can, where the number is few. The Nurse who likes "brown" will leave untasted meat not well cooked; and, again, the Nurse who enjoys underdone meat, will be dinnerless if she happens to get an outside slice. No one who has not worked as a Housekeeper in a large Hospital can imagine the innumerable difficulties the duties entail, nor how fervently one regrets that Nurses, like snipe, were not constituted to live on suction.—Yours truly,  
 AN EX-HOUSEKEEPER.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—I am glad to see that it is becoming a recognised fact that Nurses as a rule are not well fed. I can quite endorse what "A Mother" says about more than one of the largest London Hospitals. At one we were allowed for breakfast; two sardines, a small round of pickled pork, or a stale egg, and for supper, amongst other delicacies, cold potato soup, and half-baked seed cake—neither particularly conducive to dreamless slumbers. I think each Hospital should have

a stated diet table for Nurses as well as for patients, which should be approved by the Committee, members of which should inspect the cooked food (as good food is often spoiled in the cooking) at the Nurses' table from time to time. All women want keeping up to the mark—and we are not born Housekeepers, whatever our talents may be for Nursing the sick. "Home Sister" and common sense suggests the only remedy—let the Housekeeper learn her business in a subordinate capacity, and not at the expense of the health and comfort of the Nursing Staff.

AN HUNGRY PRO. IS AN ANGRY PRO.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—Since resigning my work in one of the leading Nursing Schools in London, I have never dared to look a sheep in the face; so guilty is my conscience concerning the innumerable meals I have been obliged to make off mutton hot and mutton cold.—Yours truly,  
 NURSE CHARLOTTE.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Dear Sir,—"The Nursing Record" is sent post free to subscribers who pay in advance; this is a very good arrangement for all who have a permanent address, but there are many who like myself, can never tell from one week to another where they will be by the next week; consequently if the "Institution" address is given, there is the delay of forwarding the paper, the expense of postage, and the trouble to those who are expected to forward it; often, anything other than a letter is put aside, perhaps for weeks, with the remark that it is "only a paper and not worth forwarding." Whatever town we go to, there is sure to be a railway station. Could it not be arranged with Messrs. W. H. Smith, for subscribers, who are constantly travelling about, to get or have sent to them the "Nursing Record" from the nearest station in the town or village they happen to be staying in, at the time.

This is a very small matter, but a constant source of annoyance and disappointment, I am sure, to many nurses. So far I am not a subscriber, for the simple reason that I am never sure of getting the paper two weeks consecutively.

I like the "Nursing Record" greatly, and think it will do a large amount of good in the Nursing world, and influence for good the Nurses. I sincerely hope it will have as wide a circulation as it undoubtedly deserves.—Yours truly,  
 SISTER ALICIA.

[The "Nursing Record" can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith's bookstalls. We will consider the matter but fear the arrangement suggested by our correspondent is not feasible.—ED.]

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—The Committee of the Hospital of which I am Superintendent have been good enough to consent to supply a Library for our Nurses.

I shall be greatly obliged if, through your columns, those who have already arranged such a Library, will give me the benefit of their experience on the subject. One daily paper, 3 weeklies, and 4 monthly magazines are to be allowed, and £10 a year is to be granted to buy suitable volumes to keep in stock. This allowance ought in time to provide an excellent Library, if we are only wise in the choice of our authors.—Yours faithfully,  
 LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

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