

Replies to Correspondents.

Sister Adelaide.—Your suggestion appears to us practical, and we have requested an authority on the subject to consider and advise us as to rules, &c. Then, if practical, we will have the information printed in these columns.

Annie Bowden (Fulham).—At King's College and University College Hospital there are, we understand, some disqualifications; but at the Middlesex, St. George's, and the Royal Free Hospitals, we believe that Probationers are not compelled to belong to any particular religious sect.

T.M.A.—We shall be glad to receive, and, if found suitable, to publish the article you propose. It must, however, deal with facts which you are able conclusively to prove—definite instances of the neglect of the patients—the want of food, &c.

Letters to the Editor.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I was so glad to read your little piece of sound advice to "Mrs. Delamere" last week. If she is a wise woman she will not start a Nursing Home in London, as, in the last five years, they have sprung up like mushrooms all over the West end of London, and, with the keen competition of able professional, and many *unprofessional*, persons, it is most difficult to make them pay. You talk about asking £7 7s. per week. I quite agree it is impossible to make any profit with less. But so many patients, as you say, wish to pay half that sum, and doctors seem to think it is quite sufficient. This is so strange, as doctors must know the many and great expenses of keeping up a Nursing Home in a conscientious manner. I will tell your readers my experience at the present moment. I have in my little

Hospital a patient paying £4 4s. per week. She has had a most severe bladder operation, and requires almost the constant attention of a Nurse night and day—especially as there is a danger of hæmorrhage—and at least six draw sheets daily; her appetite is poor and must be tempted; and I find I am greatly out of pocket by doing my duty to her. Her diet, fire, lights, and washing alone almost consume the 12s. per day she pays, so that the nursing, lodging, and wear and tear—to say nothing of my own labour—is provided free, gratis, and for nothing. The following is the diet for 24 hours:—

	s.	d.
Milk, one quart	0	4
Calves' foot jelly	0	6
Strong chicken jelly	1	0
Oysters, best natives (12)	3	0
Fresh eggs	0	5
Bread	0	1
Butter	0	2
Soup	0	4
Slip sole	0	9
Pigeon	1	4
Sweet	0	6
Fruit	0	4
Tea	0	2
	8	11
Washing	0	9
Coals	0	8
Lights	0	3
	10	7

If I am to do my duty to my patient, I must lose money on it. What is to be done? Perhaps some of your readers will give their experience.—Yours, &c.,

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)