

THE WIDENING OF THE RIFT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—A friend of mine who is a Nurse in the London Hospital, and who says she dare not write to you herself, has asked me to do so. The Nurses in the Hospital are being told that they must sign a paper stating in effect that they are quite happy and contented. As a matter of fact, their lot is no enviable one. They are terribly overworked and very badly fed. They are cheated of their training because they are sent out while probationers to act as private Nurses, the Committee calling them "thoroughly trained," and making the public pay for them as such. The class of women who will bear such treatment is naturally inferior, and consequently the few better class women who are beguiled into going to the London Hospital get their things stolen. My poor friend has only her own exertions to depend upon, and to leave the Hospital without the certificate, means, of course, that she could never get on as a Nurse. So she is putting up with everything, counting the days when she can get her certificate and hurry away from this scandalous place, this disgrace to the name of Charity. She detests the idea of signing this false paper; but she will be dismissed, she is told, if she does not do so, and that means ruin to her. What is she to do?—Believe me, Sir, yours faithfully,
ELSIE L. EGERTON.

[We congratulate Miss Fisher upon the deep impression her honourable protest against tyranny and injustice has made. If our correspondent's friend and others would be equally true to themselves, the London Hospital Scandals would soon be things of the past.—ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—Miss Fisher's letter, published in your issue of the 2nd inst., showing the courageous course which she had adopted upon her evidently unjust dismissal from the "London Hospital," will be read, I feel sure, by great numbers of old London Pros.—who, for some unknown offence, have suffered the same arbitrary dismissal at the hands of the matron—with genuine interest and admiration, and if she continues to insist upon receiving at the hands of the Committee a fair hearing, upon knowing who are her accusers, and of what she is really accused before accepting judgment, I feel sure numbers of her fellow workers, not now under the absolute control of the matron, will come forward and support her. I myself suffered gross injustice under the regulations in force concerning probationers at the London. I entered as a paying probationer, as I was told by Miss Luckes "there was no vacancy for a regular," but that when a vacancy occurred, if found suitable, I should be permitted to sign for two years' training, without fees. During my first three months, many "pros." entered without payment; but I, with several other young women, known to have a small sum of money, were made to pay for the full two years' training, quarter after quarter, although I repeatedly asked to be permitted to work on the regular staff. The excuse given was always that "it was feared my health might fail." But considering I was never off duty one day for ill-health for two whole years, this miserable subterfuge for wringing £109 4s. out of my pittance can be estimated at its true value. If a public inquiry is held, the accounts of the Nursing Department now kept secret should be looked into to see who gets the advantage of this money-making business.—

I am, Sir, Yours, etc.,

"ANOTHER MARTYR."

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