

Lord Burghersh's quarters ; and when he returned late in the evening from dining out—

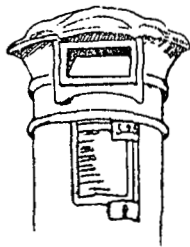
"He could scarcely believe his eyes when, on turning to the court-yard of the house, he recognised his carriage unpacking, for the idea of her accomplishing the journey from Dijon in this way before it was possible for anyone else to come had never entered his mind. He rushed upstairs, and the delight of their meeting in such different circumstances may be imagined."

This was the end of their adventures, and two or three bright notes from Paris end this pleasant collection of letters. The whole party remained some weeks in Paris through the fêtes of the Restoration, returning to England as the allied Sovereigns paid their famous visit.

Lady Burghersh was—especially through her intimacy with her uncle the Duke of Wellington (to whom she was as a daughter)—much mixed up in politics and public affairs ; yet her daughter, Lady Rose Weigall, says that—

"She never posed as a 'political' woman or 'leader' of any kind, holding the now old-fashioned view that a woman's influence is none the less real for being silent and unobtrusive, and she was herself certainly an instance of the most perfect devotion to domestic duties, with wide interests and a powerful mind."

Remembering her happy love for her husband, we read, with regret, that she was left a widow in 1859. She lived on for 20 years in comparative retirement, but happy in the society of her children and grandchildren, and died in 1879, at the age of 86.



Letters to the Editor.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The writer of "Nursing Echoes," in your journal of December 23rd, mentions the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge to the General Hospital, Nottingham, and expresses great gratification at the fact of the Matron assisting at his reception, and adds: "Ten years ago it is probable that the Royal visit to the Hospital would have taken place, and the Matron—although the responsible head of the Nursing department—would have remained unrecognised, even had she been *suffered* to be present." As I was the Matron ten years ago, and until the autumn of last year, I beg to protest against such an assertion. I am quite sure that had His Royal Highness visited the Hospital during the time of my residence there, his visit would have been made under precisely similar circumstances, and I should not only have been *suffered* but *expected* to be present. Miss Knight, as your correspondent implies, may, in the thirteen months she has now been there, have done much to educate the Weekly Board, but even before her advent some of the members knew how to behave towards a lady, and that one whom they had themselves placed at the head of their Nursing department. It is too hard on them to talk as if there were no gentlemen amongst them. The present kind President was a member of the Board in my time, and I have only pleasant memories connected with him.

As a rule, I was treated courteously by the members of the medical staff, and I certainly never felt myself called upon to hurry from a ward on the entrance of any of them. I must here declare that I was *not* the Matron who told your correspondent "rather bitterly" that the surgeon considered her "best employed looking after her blankets." Whoever she was, I do not suppose she expected it would be published. Such statements are calculated to do me a great deal of harm, and I beg you will publish the letter which I now write, to contradict them as far as I am concerned, in your next issue. I am very glad that the hard work at Nottingham (where I had neither a Housekeeper nor Night-Superintendent to assist me) has left me still alive to do so. I see H.R.H. was only conducted over the Male Accident Wards in the New Wing. They were always very much admired as they are beautiful, well-furnished wards, and they still have the advantage of having the same Sisters over them who worked under me for so many years. I am pleased that the Nurses' charming sitting-room and pleasant dining-room met with H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge's approval. They are far superior to those in most Hospitals, and were in existence long before I left.—I am, yours faithfully,
S. R. ALICE RIMINGTON, M.R.B.N.A.

[We regret that any allusion in our columns should have caused a reader annoyance ; but we would point out that the gratification we expressed that the Matron is now being generally recognised as the Superintendent of *Nursing*, and not only the Houskeeper in our Hospitals, had no personal significance whatever. The last decade was mentioned as the time in which this beneficent change has taken place. No one knows better than ourselves the good work done by Miss Rimington during her residence as Matron at the General Hospital, Nottingham ; but from her letter it will be gathered that she received very inadequate help, in a Hospital containing 165 beds, in the performance of her responsible duties. We must repeat our gratification that her successor has been granted the assistance of two ladies—one as Home Sister and one as Night Superintendent—proving most emphatically that the authorities have recognised the necessities of a modern Nursing School.—ED.]

A LIVING WAGE—FOR WOMEN.

To the Editor of "the Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I have been interested in reading the letter: "The Living Wage—for Women." I cannot help thinking your correspondent has made a slight mistake in saying £1 18s. 6d. per week is not a living wage ; it is £100 2s. per year, and surely that is more than a living wage for any careful woman. I am a Nurse of fifteen years' standing, and am not working now, owing to failure of health ; my income not quite £70 per year ; and I find it quite easy to live very comfortably on it, and put away savings as well as have sufficient for subscriptions to the various Societies to which I am attached, and other little charities around me. I give you a table of expenses which may help others ; but, before writing down items, I wish to say I have meat three times a day and wine twice ; I dress entirely in all wool, good Welsh flannels and serges, and Irish linen. I take a little country trip for a month every year, and pay about 14s. for rooms when away.

	£	s.	d.
Rent, Gas, Rates and Taxes of small house			
per annum	14	0	0
Food	26	0	0
Coal and Wood	8	0	0
Wine	2	16	0
Clothing	4	0	0
Incidental expenses of a house, sweeping chimney, breakages, etc.	2	0	0
	£56	16	0

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)