

a Burley, a pauper; a contented one too, and a Burley from the United States, a bright, happy young girl.

But as yet the direct heir has not forwarded his claim. Where is he? The world knows not. His name is Lucian Calvert, M.D., he has lately married, and in obedience to a weird fascination has taken over the house of his noble ancestors at 77, Great College Street, Westminster, with the family portraits and the relics. Yet he pledged himself to his bride not to touch that terrible fortune, for Margaret is convinced that misery and crime follow each separate coin. But who could withstand such an environment? Though one cannot shake off one's ancestors, he argues, "The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father." Whether he yields or not let readers find out for themselves. All that it is necessary for us to add is that Mr. Besant brings out with all the power of a practised novel-writer the many phases of the claimant fever, using as back-ground the local colour of a picturesque bit of old Westminster, in the precincts of the ancient Abbey.

night nurses would be relieved of this extra strain, which would fall upon the fresh day nurses. Your views, or those of your readers, on this important matter, which concerns the doctor, the nurse, and most of all the patient, will be much esteemed by all those who, like me, are engaged in the noble work of ministering to the sick.

H. B., M.R.B.N.A.

[We shall be glad to insert the opinions of our readers concerning this subject; there is little doubt that in some Hospitals (this came out in evidence before the Lords Committee, *re* Metropolitan Hospitals in 1891), that the patients are disturbed at a very early hour, in order that they could be washed, and the wards be put in order for the reception of the medical staff at 9 a.m. In expressing an opinion on the matter one must bear in mind that the patients usually retire for the night, the lights being lowered and no conversation allowed, at 8 p.m., and also that they come from a class accustomed to very early rising.—ED.]

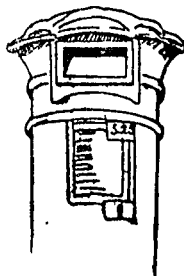
To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Would you kindly tell me through your journal what would be the duties of an Assistant Matron in an establishment conducted as a convalescent Home and Hospital with accommodation for 100 persons?

I am, Madam, yours faithfully,

NELL.

[Perhaps some reader occupying such a position will be good enough to answer our correspondent.—ED.]



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.

REST IN HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It is generally admitted, I believe, that no more curative agent exists for suffering humanity than *rest*, and it is surely the main and bounden duty of us as Nurses to use every endeavour to procure for our patients as much of this remedy as possible. It will not, therefore, I hope, be considered out of place for me respectfully to draw your attention to a change in the routine of some of our hospitals which would, I think, secure for patients a greater amount of *physical rest*.

At present, in many of our hospitals and infirmaries, patients, I hear, are aroused at a very early hour, 5.30 or 6 a.m., in order that bed making and ward cleaning may be proceeded with. May I venture to suggest that these proceedings would be better deferred until some such hour as 7.30 or 8 a.m., when the patients having had their full sleep, and having taken some nourishment, will be better able to undergo these necessary inconveniences? Other advantages resulting from this change are: (a) daylight would be obtained, saving artificial light and securing a more healthy atmosphere in the ward, and (b) the wearied

"BURDETT'S OFFICIAL" INTELLIGENCE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Will you permit me to say that as a medical man desirous of seeing Nurses registered by Act of Parliament, I am greatly pleased to observe that there is to be a Stock Exchange List of Nurses. I am endeavouring to incite a harmless friend of mine with an itching for publicity to start a Coal Exchange (with which he is connected in his lucid moments) List of Nurses, but perhaps the Stock Exchange quotation may prove sufficient to arouse the public and the medical profession to the necessity for Parliamentary action before my friend seizes his opportunity of booming himself. Nothing, Madam, in my humble judgment, will so force forward the excellent work of the Nurses' Association as the appearance of a number of Directories of Nurses. They will prove to the meanest intelligence the enormous demand which must exist on the part of the public and the medical profession for some information, however unofficial and inefficient, concerning Nurses; and the mere fact that the Stock Exchange has taken up the subject will be an unanswerable argument in favour of State interference and proper legislation. I venture to prophesy that the appearance of this Directory will give an immense impetus to your great and useful efforts to secure Registration for Nurses. As soon as the Parliamentary Register of Nurses is formed the Stock Exchange List will die a natural death, but until then I am certain it will strengthen your hands by still further confusing the public concerning the qualifications of a trained Nurse.

I am, Madam, yours sincerely,

M.D

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