

As We See Others.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—If I may be permitted to say so, I think the majority of your correspondents engaged in private Nursing take a somewhat pessimistic view of their case. I have been engaged in private Nursing upwards of five years, and I like it. Perhaps that is the reason I do not meet with so many difficulties as some of my colleagues, who evidently find this branch of our profession unsympathetic. I have had difficulties certainly; sometimes I have been underfed and overworked, but then I have also enjoyed compensations. Into how many charming families have I been sent, and thus in intimate intercourse with really delightful people, received a liberal education. I enjoy meeting fresh people, studying new characters, and feeling that in the hour of sickness, the responsibility for the comfort, and often for the happiness of a household is mine. Is this vanity? Perhaps so. Anyway, into whatever position I am thrust, I hate to feel myself a failure, and would much rather be tired and hungry (the domestics never annoy me, although sometimes the parlour maid will not hand me the vegetables at table), than not *succeed* in my profession, and the private Nurse who is always battling for her *rights* is never a success.

At the present moment I am enjoying a week's holiday in the lovely country house of a "grateful patient." I am treated *en princesse*. I am an orphan, and have no home, and the home life here is a glimpse of heaven to me; the sweet mother, who was my patient, the courtly father, the trio of bonnie daughters, their loving devotion to one another, and their thankfulness to me, because their mother recovered from a dangerous operation, all goes to make life sweeter even to this homeless bird of passage.

And then I compare my life with that of other women. I have nursed in the middle class family where the governess, a lady of education, had the entire charge of the five younger children, where she taught first in the school room, relieved the Nurse with the baby, and made every stitch of underclothing all the children wore, where she received a salary of £25 a year, and had to clothe herself, and provide for thirteen weeks' holiday out of that sum; and there are hundreds of girls who work as hard for as little pay.

I think, seriously, that we Nurses are a very favoured class; our work is so human, we have so much change, and in comparison with other women workers, we are very fairly paid, especially those amongst us who have the advantage of belonging to a co-operative society organised for our benefit only. I am indeed very thankful for all that has been done for us by those interested in our professional welfare during the last few years, and I should advise my colleagues in private Nursing not to ponder too deeply on their grievances, but try and appreciate their numberless blessings in a spirit of gratitude. Life is short, let us make the *best* use of it.

"ANOTHER REGISTERED NURSE."

Medical Matters.

CARELESS PRESCRIPTIONS.



IT is a well-known fact that wonderfully few mistakes are made in the writing of prescriptions, as compared with the immense number of such documents which must be given every day, and still more so considering the almost proverbial bad writing of medical men. In the United States there has recently been tried an important action, which may be much quoted hereafter in this country. A chemist refused to put up the prescriptions of a certain medical man, and used opprobrious language concerning him. The medical man brought an action against him on the ground that this was slander, and the case occupied an American court for some time, and was finally carried to a Court of Appeal, when a very elaborate judgment was given, and when all the resources of legal subtlety were used to support the action of the defendant. Finally, however, the judges ruled that while chemists might for various reasons fairly decline to dispense prescriptions from any medical man, they must not, in so doing, employ any words which could tend to reflect upon the prescriber's judgment or professional skill; and therefore in this particular case the plaintiff won his action for slander, with substantial damages. The judgment is one which is clearly in accordance with common sense as well as justice.

NASAL HEADACHES.

A GERMAN physician has recently called attention to the fact which is well-known to practitioners in this country, that some forms of headache are entirely dependent upon disease of the cavity of the nose, and that, therefore, whenever this symptom is very severe and no obvious cause can be found to account for it, the nose should be most carefully examined. It is a very common experience that the first result of a bad attack of nasal catarrh, is a feeling of fulness at the bridge of the nose, with a dull heavy pain across the forehead; and in cases in which there is marked swelling of the mucous membrane, these symptoms are exaggerated. When there is a growth, even in the shape of a small polypus, in one or both nostrils, it is by no means uncommon to find that severe neuralgic pain is present on that side of the face, and of course though treatment may be effectual in relieving the pain, this can never be cured until its cause, in the shape of the new growth, has been removed.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)