

the Friend of the Clergy Corporation, of Bedford Street, Strand, is not to be confounded with Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy of the address at the foot of this letter.

The latter Corporation, founded in 1655 and incorporated in 1678, has never been a voting charity.

I have no wish to reflect in the slightest degree upon the Friend of the Clergy Society, the pensions supplied by which are a great comfort I have no doubt to the ladies who enjoy them. But it is right that you should know that the two Societies have no connection with each other, and they are administered upon different lines.—Faithfully yours,

W. PAGET BOWMAN,
Reg. Sons of the Clergy.
2, Bloomsbury Place,
Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.

A DISTRESSING CASE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Will you allow me, through the columns of our Journal, the *Record*, to appeal to the generous and kind-hearted on behalf of a most respectable Trained Nurse (a widow), who is at present in great distress? She was Head Nurse of an Infectious Ward for fourteen years. She has one only child, a son, in the last stage of consumption. His mother has strained every effort to care for him to the last, as he could not be received into a Hospital.

I quote a part of the poor Nurse's letters to me:—"I am most grateful to you for helping me in my need. I will repay you when I begin work again. I am doing some needlework for Mrs. C.; she kindly sent my son some nourishment by the carrier." "Accept my best thanks; you must be tired of my poverty. May God bless you, for you have helped the widow in distress. If you could but have seen my anxious face all this week, and my poor son, knowing that I was short. I am pleased to tell you that the Doctor has kindly allowed A. a quart of milk from the Dispensary. My poor son lingers, but he is my life now. He does not cough so much. You know what that means. I try to be resigned, but to be so poor makes it doubly painful. I try to be bright for his sake, for it makes him sad when he finds out I am short. I find the rent and coals heaviest. I get all the needlework I can, and am glad to do it, but A. is so very ill I have not much time. Write soon; we are glad to hear from you."

I would be glad of help to get some coals for this poor Nurse. I do not think her son can possibly last long.—I remain, Sir, yours respectfully, HELEN DUNN, M.B.N.A.

Beech House, London Road,
Red Hill, Nov. 25.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Accept my warmest thanks for the kind gift of fifteen shillings for the poor Nurse, who will acknowledge it herself to you. Your prompt generosity so moved another gentleman that he gave me ten shillings to forward with your fifteen. I never gave the N.R.B.F. a thought when I wrote to you, I had intended sending my contribution to the fund in December. I shall certainly take the earliest opportunity of doing so.—I beg to remain, Sir, yours gratefully,

HELEN DUNN, M.B.N.A.
Beech House, London Road,
Red Hill, Nov. 26, 1889.

DISTRESS AMONGST LADIES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—There is something very horrible in the distress existing amongst ladies who have been brought up and lived in luxury, and who, from adverse circumstances, in almost all instances bitterly beyond their own control, are reduced to a condition of absolute penury. It would not come within my province as the secretary of this Association to call attention to this sad subject, were it not so closely connected with that

system of voting and canvassing which is adopted by some of the largest and most important of those charities whose object is supposed to be to alleviate distress amongst ladies of the middle class. The theme is a most serious one and demands the most serious and immediate attention.

In my official capacity here I am brought face to face with terrible suffering and want and disappointment, the only heritage of the unsuccessful candidates for the benefits of most of our principal charities. I thus solemnly believe that the aggregate of injury inflicted by these Institutions on the many who are shut out, by far outweighs the amount of good which is bestowed on those few who draw the winning numbers in the charity lotteries.

In our office here I have had the widow of the artisan, worn out with cares and canvassing, begging for votes and money. I have seen the gaunt figure of the poor groaning incurable hobbling up three flights of stairs on the same miserable errand, with hardly sufficient strength to wield his crutches. But saddest of all, I am often appealed to by those whose cause I now earnestly plead—refined, highly educated women, whose relations are either deceased, abroad, or too poor to lend a helping hand. Within the last week I have seen a lady who for months has subsisted by pawning her clothes and selling her chattels, and when she had only a shilling left she came to me to recommend her to a Charity.

There are certainly charities, though by far insufficient to meet the wants, which are specially founded to afford assistance to poor ladies, but the voting system blocks the way, and hundreds of such, who have lost everything in life except their honour, their education and their independence of spirit, recoil from undertaking a struggle in which, after much trouble and humiliation, and often expense, there is so little chance of success. There is one large Institution (the National Benevolent), with invested funds of over £200,000, which allows old ladies of eighty years of age to canvass for votes. What wanton cruelty!

The only ways of remedying this trouble amongst our impoverished ladies of all ages are, it occurs to me, firstly, that the benevolent public should insist on the committees of all charities taking on themselves the entire duty of investigating and comparing, and selecting from among the candidates those who shall be deemed most fit to enjoy the benefits to be conferred, and that the practice of electing by subscribers' votes be abolished; secondly, that unless the committees assent to these proposals, subscribers and donors should refuse to support such charities, and should transfer their contributions to those Institutions in which the voting system does not exist.—Your obedient servant,

J. A. Dow,
Secretary, Charity Voting Reform Association.
30, Charing Cross, S.W., 22nd Nov. 1889.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Could you kindly tell me which is the best Children's Hospital to start as a Probationer in? and also if Miss Florence Nightingale is still doing Hospital work, and at which Hospital is she? Could you kindly answer in this week's *Nursing Record*? As I always take it in, I shall see it.—Yours truly,

C. T. S. R.
[Miss Florence Nightingale is not actively engaged in nursing work, having retired from such long ago. The Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, W.C.; East London Hospital for Children, E.; the Evelina Hospital, S.E.; &c. There are at least a dozen, London and Provincial.—Ed.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss C.—You should order the *Nursing Record* at the bookstall, and insist upon having it delivered regularly.

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