

### The Bart's Appeal.

The appeal for £500,000 to be made by the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital at the Mansion House on the 26th inst. has the sanction and sympathy of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the President of the hospital.

As it is 150 years since St. Bartholomew's asked for public help, we hope the financial support given will be generous. At the same time, no scheme which divorces the Nurses' Home from the hospital grounds can be a good scheme, and we hope room will be found on the present site to build the nursing and domestic offices. Otherwise the present high condition of efficiency and discipline in the nursing department cannot continue. We write of what we know.

#### SHOULD A NURSES' HOME BE SEPARATED FROM THE HOSPITAL?

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

MADAM,—As an old Bartholomew's nurse, I am much interested in the discussion at present going on in regard to building the new Nurses' Home at a distance from the hospital.

Perhaps no one but a nurse who has had actual experience of such a plan realises the fatigue and inconvenience it entails.

I well remember as a "guinea pig" during the first six months of my training how I dreaded the walk to and from the King's Square Home morning and evening, through all weathers, no matter how tired one was.

Then, too, as a Matron, I think it most essential that the Nursing Home should be within easy reach of the Superintendent of Nurses. In all cases of emergency or sudden illness affecting the nursing staff, the Matron should be at hand to help and direct.

Also in regard to efficient organisation of the nurses' work inside the hospital, it would seem to me far easier to promptly meet the demands of the medical and surgical staff if the nurses are within the hospital grounds than if they are at a distance and have to be sent for hurriedly, for special cases, &c., &c. There are many other points to be considered, such as duplication of dining and dressing rooms, with the necessary maids, but I will not entrench further on your valuable space.

Lastly, the discipline of the nurses would inevitably suffer during what would be practically the permanent absence of the Matron if her house were at a distance from the Nurses' Home. In the reverse case of her house being outside the hospital grounds, the discipline in the wards would be equally likely to suffer.—  
I am, yours truly,  
PROVINCIAL MATRON.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—I read with interest your remarks in last week's issue on the suggestion of the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital to build the Nurses' Home away from the hospital.

Fortunately during my nursing career I have always had the Nursing Home within the hospital precincts, both in England and abroad, but I cannot imagine any greater inconvenience and discomfort to a

nursing staff than to live away from their work, besides being detrimental to their health.

One of my present Sisters was Home Sister at the Bristol Royal Infirmary before this hospital was opened; she tells me the Home there is away from the hospital, and consequently much disliked. A very large proportion of the nurses suffered from rheumatism owing to being out all weathers, and also they never looked so neat and trim, having to pack their indoor uniform daily.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

B. CUTLER, Matron.

The Hospital, Much Wenlock, Salop.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR EDITOR,—Will you be good enough to find space to insert a few lines from me re the suggestion of the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital to build a Nurses' Home at a distance from the hospital.

As an old pupil of the school I should be sorry indeed should the suggestion be adopted.

In looking round the London Training-Schools, those with "Homes" attached to them produce a quieter, tidier, more womanly set of trained workers than those who live at a distance, with every opportunity, twice daily, of meeting the same unknown people in the streets, and of being obliged in all weathers and under all conditions to hurry from door to door so as to avoid being booked "late."

Many nurses are encouraged by the force of such circumstances to give way to habits of hurry, slovenly modes of dress, irregular habits of health, and a certain lax behaviour in public as they talk over the joys and grievances experienced during the day.

Certainly the more refined the would-be probationer and nurse who has friends in the nursing profession, the more surely will such seek for training in a school with a Home attached.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

NURSES' WELL-WISHER, MATRON.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—For the past two years I have followed with great interest all the suggestions for the rebuilding or removal of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and I am sure all my colleagues who have an equal pride in their Alma Mater will have done the same. The latest plan for building the Nurses' Home away from the hospital is an arrangement one had never deemed possible. It must be a great disadvantage to the whole nursing staff, and as they will suffer, in an indirect way, the medical staff and the patients will do the same—a fact which I think the Governors can scarcely have recognised. Neither do I see how they can understand the many difficulties which this scheme involves unless they discuss it with the Matron and those who have a practical knowledge of nurses and their requirements in regard to their work in the wards, their health, personal comfort, and discipline. They could ask themselves one question (knowing the locality): Would they approve of their own daughters walking to and fro in all weathers and at all hours between 6.30 a.m. and 10 p.m.?

It would take time for the nurses to dress on reaching the hospital before going "on duty." For what nurse worthy the name ever wears her ward dress out

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