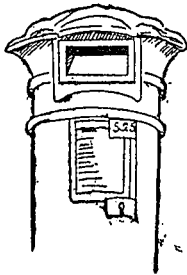


in water." Untrue words, too, of the man who wrote the stately "Endymion," the first line of which would alone have saved the poor, badly educated genius' name from the oblivion of the tomb,—

"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever."

Thus he wrote, and the world acknowledges with acclaim the truth of the young poet's words, "Writ in water." Instead, on the wall of a house in Rome, near the famous steps of the Piazza de Sagua, is a marble slab with the inscription, "Here died the poet Keats," and the date of the day of his lamented death, a death which was truly and deeply mourned by his beloved sister Fanny.

VEVA KARSLAND.



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.

REGISTRATION, OR ANOTHER "PHASE" OF DISTRICT NURSING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—In catching up the drift of our good friend "Portia," respecting the patent "organised opposition" to Registration now current, permit me to call your thoughtful attention to another phase of District Nursing—viz., District Nursing as somewhat recently introduced by some of our Infirmarys. For it appears that the officials thereof, discontented with their list of in-patients, have also thought it right to take upon themselves the very onerous duties of visiting patients at their own homes.

Into the question as to how far such a scheme might prove to be beneficial to all concerned, I will not at present presume to enter, and the question as to how far this grand theory is now monopolising and infringing the just rights of the Parish Doctor I must also allow to remain in abeyance, meanwhile contenting myself with saying that the adoption of this plan has usually involved the engagement of an extra junior or "Visiting" Surgeon.

Naturally enough, work and to spare follows in the wake of this grand adventure, and our young friend finds himself asking for and obtaining the services of an accredited District Nurse (so called) to rush round and take the temperatures, &c. Very good, indeed! But go with me to my dwelling-place for a brief interim, and I will fain show you a map of the district aforesaid, from which, undoubtedly, we shall together make the discovery that this unique system means, in some of our towns, a weekly average draw upon the walking powers of the Nurse in question of little short of sixty miles. "A strangely odd paracox!" they say, and truly.

But to hasten on. Our junior Surgeon finds the game "one too many" for him, as they say in Yorkshire, and a little later on we catch another glimpse of him. He is now on view in the capacity of an assistant Surgeon to an elderly and over-worked Doctor in a remote country district. Behold the young man! There he is, as busy as he well can

be, upsetting forthwith all the previous arrangements of this district, setting everybody right as he vainly imagines, poor boy, acting out, undoubtedly, his own big preconceived notions of medicine, sanitation and nursing.

Somehow or other, this officious hobble-de-hoy oftentimes manages to throw the Nurse-in-charge out of a thriving nursing enterprise which she has nobly served and led forth for years previously—without any official testimonial—and himself very shortly after. I have shown you his portrait simply because I wonder if this is, after all, the type of character of the good folk who are so awfully busy just now opposing Registration. If so, I hope they will read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the foregoing remarks.

Ere I conclude, let me earnestly and loudly call upon the opposition party to refute the veracity of my plain and unvarnished statements, to ask them to speak out and tell me honestly how long they suppose the public in the last decade of the nineteenth century—keen, knowing, smart, sharp and wide awake—will tolerate such glaring specimens of wanton cruelty and baseness as those that I have just portrayed? "Evil be to him that evil thinks."—Yours truly,

MENS CONSCIA RECTI.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Would you kindly tell a country Matron how to proceed with regard to establishing a Hospital as a recognised Training School for Nurses?—Yours, &c.,

G. M., M.B.N.A.

[We advise you to write direct, giving full particulars, to the Secretary of your Association for this information.—ED.]

HOSPITAL SANITATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Your excellent Editorial on this subject in last week's issue of our Journal touches upon a matter of the gravest import to all residents in our Hospitals, whether patients or Nurses.

In the great measure of Hospital Reform that looms in the near future this question of sanitation cannot be ignored. I write feelingly on the subject, for two young professional friends of mine were "done to death" through the execrable sanitary (?) arrangements of the Hospitals to which they were attached. A few years ago a young relative had what gave a fair promise of a brilliant professional career cut short by impaired health, due to the same cause.

Hospital sanitation is a matter of the greatest importance to our working classes, and Hospital Saturday gives them a claim to be heard. In justice to the sick and injured poor confided to their charge, to those who tend them, to the subscribers and donors, the lay authorities of our Hospitals are bound to give the subject their thoughtful and practical attention.

To send the sick to a Hospital to be cured of some inevitable disease at the imminent risk of their succumbing to a preventable one is neither wise, humane, nor just, and public feeling cannot be too earnestly nor too speedily invoked on their behalf.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

JUSTITIA.

THE "DISTRICT NURSING" CONTROVERSY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I am constrained to admire the beautiful spirit of charity which pervades this controversy, and would, through the medium of your valuable paper, warmly thank each individual writer for her contribution thereunto. District Nursing hath many phases still to unfold, and truly those good people who are interested in this branch of nursing might add to or confirm their knowledge by a perusal of the correspondence now going on in the *Nursing Record*.—Yours in good hope,

MINERVA.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)