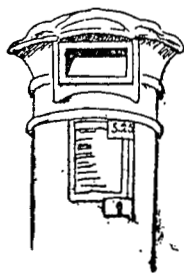


be—what my father knows more about than I do; I wish I did know *all* about it.

She brought with her a young woman to take the place of cook, or, rather, general servant, in our little household. She had been kitchen-maid in a small family of my mother's acquaintance, and had a good character for honesty and plain cooking. Percivale's more experienced ear soon discovered that she was Irish. This fact had not been represented to my mother, for the girl had been in England from childhood, and her mistress seemed either not to have known it or not to have thought of mentioning it. Certainly my mother was far too just to have allowed it to influence her choice, notwithstanding the prejudices against Irishwomen in English families—prejudices not without a general foundation in reason. For my part, I should have been perfectly satisfied with my mother's choice, even if I had not been so indifferent at the time to all that was going on in the lower regions of the house. But while my mother was there I knew well enough that nothing could go wrong, and my house-keeping mind had never been so much at ease since we were married. It was very delightful not to be accountable; and for the present I felt exonerated from all responsibilities.

(To be continued.)



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.

We shall be happy to answer, as far as we can, all questions submitted to us.

Communications, &c., not noticed in our present number will receive attention when space permits.

PADDINGTON GREEN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I beg to enclose copy of the report of the Paddington Green Investigation Committee. It would have been forwarded to you before, but I have been ill. I have written to the Committee saying that we consider the report to be unsatisfactory, most unsatisfactory. It is reassuring to know that the drainage system of the Hospital is in perfect condition, but my complaint was against the interior administration of the Hospital, and this subject the Committee either ignore, or give respecting it only evasive answers.

The main facts are known to you; but there are fuller details known to the Committee, though scarcely fit for publication. Not only did I complain that the bed, &c., was not disinfected, but that the slops were allowed to remain standing under the bed which my sister was to occupy. She had

to call a maid to remove them. Comings of hair and scraps of paper were also lying about the floors. The Committee make no reference to these matters.

The red ink marks on report are of course my own, and denote a few points to which I would draw your attention:

(1) "The malady was doubtful," the temperature high (I have this from Mr. Hanbury himself), and therefore the disease might have been either infectious or contagious. Yet the unfortunate incoming Nurse was to run the risk, and this the Committee evidently think was quite the right thing.

(2) Nurse No. 1, who was properly removed and warded, has recovered; the two girls who were allowed to take a long journey are dead. Is it not a fact (I speak with deference) that a railway journey taken during the early stages of typhoid considerably lessens the chance of recovery?

(3) My sister (Nurse Bishop) had suffered for more than a year from asthma. She was, comparatively speaking, quite well when she went to Paddington, but very delicate, as the Matron well knew. We were therefore much surprised that she wished my sister to take work in the Hospital at all, and had my brothers or myself been at home at the time, she most certainly would not have been allowed to go. As it was she went only for a few days to fill a gap, and to have confessed to a high temperature would have meant giving up the work before another could be found to take her place.

(4) My sister came home within an hour or two of leaving the Hospital on the 15th in a state of high fever, and quite the wreck of herself. Therefore the statement that she appeared so well, and that the temperature was normal, is certainly surprising. With reference to Nurse Phillips, it is absolutely impossible that she could have looked or felt "perfectly well" when she was and had been suffering from severe diarrhoea, this too in view of her *immediate* illness and death.

(5) I have at no time said that Nurse Phillips occupied the same bed as that in which my sister slept. But I believe she occupied the same room, both at the time and after, and with sanitary arrangements such as I describe it would have been a matter of surprise had she *not* taken the infection. Mark that she had had no case of typhoid in her Ward for some time. From whence then was the infection conveyed? One need not seek far for an answer to this question. It is obvious. I think the friends of these young Nurses are more than justified in lamenting the want of care and observation on the part of the Hospital officers. The Committee do not appear to view the matter in this light—that the Nurses may have looked *very* ill, but were not *observed*. In fact they do not strike at the root of the evil, and if matters are to go on as before, and sanitary laws to be disregarded in the Hospital, then no architectural improvements will avail, and retribution will surely follow. But the innocent are the victims. Since the Investigation Committee ceased its labours and the report appeared, it has been "discovered" (the word is peculiar) that the blankets "were changed." This, Mr. Hanbury writes me. No details are given. I think this certainly was owing to us, but the Committee appear to think that, providing they are satisfied, nothing more is necessary. Pray pardon my long letter; I leave that and the report entirely in your hands. Thanking you for the prompt way in which you took the sad matter in hand,—I remain, truly yours,

C. CONINGSBY.

Paddington Green Children's Hospital,
Paddington Green, London,
February 6, 1891.

To MRS. CONINGSBY, 11, Himley Road, Tooting Junction.
Madam,—Your letters to me and that of Mrs. Phillips, to the Hospital, have been the subject of careful discussion and investigation by a full Committee of the Paddington Green Children's Hospital.

The circumstances appear to be these:—

I. On November 3, a Nurse who had for three days been

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