

Phillips, see *Nursing Record*, Jan. 29), fail to see there was any lack of attention on the part of the officials. I beg to differ, and consider, looking at the matter from a sanitary point, there was most culpable neglect.

The fact of a Nurse being removed from the Night Nurses' bedroom ill, with high temperature (which in a few days proved to be typhoid); it might have been small-pox or scarlet fever, as the case was a doubtful one. Notwithstanding, without disinfecting bed, bedding, or room, the two Nurses on night duty occupy it that day, with combings of hair and bits of paper about the floor, and in other respects anything but clean. Under such circumstances, is it any wonder infection was spread and two young lives were sacrificed?

Another source of danger, in my opinion, is the airing, or more correctly speaking, drying, the patients' body and bed linen twice a week in the Wards during the night. The linen is sent home not too clean and very damp. Surely this steaming linen in a small Ward cannot be conducive to the health either of patients or Nurse.

Then, again, in regard to diet for the Nurses on night duty, light breakfast is provided for them at eight a.m., after which they go out for exercise. A meal cannot be obtained before going to bed at noon, except as a personal favour from the servants, or by providing it themselves; thus, on night duty there are only two meals, viz., at eight a.m. and 7.30 p.m., and during the night any light refreshment which the Nurse can prepare, such as cup of tea, coffee, or cocoa.

I have read "Disinterested's" letter (see *Nursing Record*, March 5), and fail to see that it applies in any way to the above cases. They did not receive the same kindly consideration, and others doubtless can echo the same sentiments.

One thing is quite certain—all sanitary rules were totally disregarded. If, as the Committee observe, the bedroom had to be used owing to want of space, would it not have been better to have slept the Nurses out for a day or two? It certainly would have been only just to have done so.

Our loss must remain a loss, but by your kindly ventilating the subject in your valuable journal good may be done, and valuable and precious lives saved.—Thanking you in anticipation, I remain, yours faithfully,

E. J. PHILLIPS, *Matron*.

Norwood Cottage Hospital, Surrey.

NURSING AT SOUTH DEVON HOSPITAL.

[WE have received several letters in reference to and contradicting the remarks made in the communication which appeared in our issue of March 19. In addition, the Nurse herself has forwarded to us the following full and complete retraction of the whole of the statements made.—ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—As far as lies in my power I wish to contradict the statements in your paper of last week regarding the overwork of a Nurse of the South Devon Hospital. Nurses are not more perfect than other people, and in a fit of temper I wrote to a relation giving very much the following statements as you put them in the *Record*. I certainly did do the "out-patients" for three days after being up all night, but I offered to do them, and did them quite willingly, being fond of that work. Had we not been short of Nurses just then, on account of sickness, such a thing would not have happened. As to the operation spoken of, I need not have stayed up for that had I not wished to see it, and after it was over I had eight hours for bed, as I had not to come on duty till ten p.m. The Nurses here are certainly not overworked, nor are they made to stay in the Wards when they are feeling ill, and I shall be truly sorry if what has been said in your paper shall take away in any degree the high character this Hospital bears.—Yours, &c.,
THE YOUNG LADY REFERRED TO.

POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—Many thanks for the books received yesterday, which I was very pleased with.—I am, yours sincerely,
FLORA E. SNUDDEN,

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A Book or Books of the value of One Guinea will be awarded for an Essay upon a subject to be announced after the Easter Holidays.

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- 2.—Manuscript must be written distinctly in ink and on one side of the paper only, upon not less than 24 nor more than 48 pages of ordinary-sized ruled sermon paper. The pages must be numbered and fastened together.
- 3.—The real and full name and address (stating whether Miss or Mrs., of the Competitor must be inscribed on the back of each contribution, and notification of which Hospital or Institution the Competitor has been or is attached to.
- 4.—Trained Nurses or those personally associated with Nursing work only allowed to compete.

Winners in previous Competitions are permitted to compete, but in case of a "tie" the prize would be awarded to the Competitor who has not secured a prize before.

The decision of the Prize Essay Editor to be final, and any infringement of the above Rules will be considered a disqualification.

NOTICE.—The Prize Essay Editor will not undertake to return MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope; and in no case will he be responsible for any loss of same during transmission, &c. In no case must manuscripts be rolled up when sent by post; they must be folded.

— NOTICES. —

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Books, Pamphlets, &c., for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of the NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. The Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be strictly adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

Communications from all parts of the country are cordially invited, and liberal arrangements are made for reprints of original articles, and for such illustrations as serve to increase their value or interest. Reports of Nursing Vacancies, Appointments, Meetings of Societies, &c., and Newspapers, &c., containing (marked) accounts of matters of local or personal interest or importance, will be gladly received. Correspondence upon all subjects associated with Nursing specially invited.

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