

tracts read out by Lord Cathcart before the Lords' Commission. There are one or two things I am curious to know about this matter. *What* was the article found in the Nurse's possession? *Who* found it? Was the matter reported to the Committee? or were "her services dispensed with" before they had an opportunity of investigating the matter? Was the Nurse permitted an opportunity of explanation? Was she made aware of the vague entry opposite her name? What steps did the Committee take to prosecute the Nurse and protect the public? &c. Perhaps the gentleman who appears, unlike the Nurses themselves, to have access to the official register of the Hospital in question, can and will answer these simple questions. Any way, as a Life Governor of more than one Metropolitan Hospital, I also may be permitted to take a peep into these highly spiced records, and *may* come across the entry in question. *I will* *et you know the result if I do.*—Yours faithfully, DIANA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—The certificated Nurses of this Hospital, nearly all of whom are "Registered," are very grateful to you for your support of our attempt at reform in Nursing matters. We believe our Matron, who advocates Registration, knows more about the requirements of the Nurses than the Governors of the Hospital—gentlemen occupied in business and trade, who never enter the Hospital, or know a Sister from a Ward-maid; and we have firmly made up our minds, with all due respect to the Committee and Governors, to register our certificates as we obtain them. If our independence savours of insubordination we do not intend it to do so, and feel sure we shall still try to perform our duties to the best of our ability.—Yours truly, A SISTER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I must send you a line, but must do it quickly for fear Home Sister will come in and find me writing with a pen belonging to "another Probationer." After supper to-night she stood up and addressed us solemnly and kindly, as she always does: "Nurses, I regret to have to speak again concerning a subject upon which I have spoken so often. This evening I have investigated some of the washing trays, and find as usual caps, collars, cuffs, aprons, &c., marked with the wrong names and numbers in the wrong bags. What does this mean?—grave irregularity on the part of the Nurses. I must conclude, from the general confusion of numbers, that you have all things in common; that, in fact, you wear one another's garments with impunity, and by so doing acquire habits of a very undesirable character." I tremble in my—no, let me be truthful, in No. 24's shoes. It's not my fault; my feet are so swollen with standing that I was obliged to borrow a pair this morning, and I lent her a clean cap in exchange, as, well, somehow she hadn't got one. I glance round the table; we (there are about fifty of us) all look very guilty and correspondingly meek, and I wonder what would happen to our patients in the morning if the Matron walked in, and in righteous indignation compelled all those Nurses "to leave the Hospital who had in their possession an article belonging to another Probationer." Terrible visions of the Old Bailey, Black Bess, and grimy Newgate uprise before me (they are conveniently near), and I mentally resolve to abstain from borrowed plumes for the future. Five minutes later, in our own little sanctum, I find myself confiding in you *with No. 24's pen.*—Yours, &c., A REPENTANT PRO.

HOSPITAL BED.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I see in your last issue you recommend the "Lawson Tait" Hospital bed. I venture to draw your attention to the "Heywood Smith" bed, as designed by Dr. Heywood

Smith for his private Hospital and made by me, and supplied to many Institutions, as being the best yet offered to the profession. One of its features is its height, whereby stooping of Nurses and Doctors while attending to their patients is reduced to a minimum.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN G. BELLORD.

70, Great Portland Street, W.

COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY.
TWENTY-FOURTH COMPETITION.

A Book or Books of the value of One Guinea will be awarded for an Essay upon the following subject:—

"Describe in full the amount and kind of help required in a Hospital laundry. The Hospital contains sixty-four beds; and there is a daily average of fifty-four patients. Their personal linen is not washed at the Hospital. The Staff consisting of House Surgeon, Matron, eight Nurses, and ten servants, there are about eighty Ward sheets fourteen quilts, fourteen blankets, eighty pillow-cases, towels, &c., besides the house linen, eighty Nurses' and Servants' aprons, and, of course, a large number of collars and cuffs, to be washed each week. The servants all wear cotton dresses, but not the Nurses. The washing is not to be done by machinery."

RULES.

1.—Contributions to be sent to the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, addressed as follows:—"Prize Essay Competition, THE NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C."

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.

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