

## LONDON HOSPITAL SCANDALS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I was present at several of the sittings in the Lords' Committee-room last July, when the disgraceful condition of things at the London Hospital was brought to light, and cannot refrain from writing a few words concerning the official register of the Probationers' characters—a veritable black book, containing the most scurrilous remarks. I, with many other disinterested persons in the room, fully shared Lord Cathcart's indignation, that any official in a public Institution should be permitted to utilise an official register such as the book ought to be, for recording her personal feelings, in the most vulgar language, against gentlewomen working in the Hospital. I cannot believe that this volume can be read by a committee of *gentlemen*, as the first impulse of such would be to pitch it on the board-room fire. Mr. Homersham has done wisely about the truth about the inhuman treatment his sister received at the London Hospital, and I sincerely hope that he will be successful in having the scandalous and untrue statements concerning her expunged from the minute books. Any way, he is doing a public service to those young women about to enter our Hospitals for training, in showing them which to avoid, unless they choose to run the risk of being privately maligned in the most grossly unjust manner, seeing that they are helpless and defenceless against such defamation of their characters. I have never heard or read of anything so degrading as this black book system of report permitted to exist with so many other notorious scandals at the London Hospital.—Yours truly,

A WOMAN.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I have this day seen a number of your paper, the *Nursing Record*, and I beg to say I was the lady to whom Nurse Powell was sent, and I beg to say she never came to me with a temperature of 103 deg. She was perfectly well all the time she was with me, and although only a few weeks within the time of finishing her probation, she was a most excellent Nurse; she came to me also for a short time for a holiday, and she never complained of being either under-fed or over-worked.

I may also state I was a Nurse and Sister for years in the London Hospital, and things were not made as comfortable for the Nurses, nor was the food nearly so good, then; and yet I was never over-worked or under-fed. I have no interest in the London Hospital; but there are so many things stated in your paper that could be explained away, that I felt I must write these few lines. I do not suppose for an instant you will take any notice of what I have stated.—Yours truly,

ELLEN H. ADAMS.

Grately, Andover.

[We regret—and we really have not deserved—that our correspondent should consider that we resemble the London Hospital authorities. We invite criticism and welcome it. We are only desirous that the truth should be known. For our answer to the above we refer our readers to the "Editorial" of this week; while in common justice we have submitted a copy of the letter to the Rev. Mr. Valentine, who made the statement on oath seven months ago, which Mrs. Adams now denies by a letter which she evidently did "not suppose for an instant" that we would publish.—ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I have read Mrs. Adams' letter about my evidence concerning Nurse Powell with great surprise. What possible authority can she suppose she has for her mistaken statement that she was "the lady to whom Nurse Powell was sent"? Her own assertions that Nurse Powell "had not a temperature of 103 degs." and "was perfectly well" are themselves a direct contradiction to her own statement, unless Mrs. Adams asserts that Nurse Powell never went to anyone else during

her three years' service at the London Hospital. I think I should add that I did not wish to give the impression that on the occasion referred to in my evidence, Nurse Powell was sent away to nurse a patient any more than Probationer Lawson, mentioned at the same time. I cordially agree with Mrs. Adams that Miss Powell was (and is) "a most excellent Nurse," but if my memory does not deceive me, she had finished "her probation" and had a long holiday in the Canary Islands to recruit her somewhat overtaxed strength before Mrs. Adams even knew of her existence.—Yours, &c.,

H. TRISTRAM VALENTINE.

The Vicarage, St. Paul's Walden, Welwyn.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We advise those many members who have written to us concerning the B.N.A. badge to write and place their views before the Executive Committee. We feel sure their letters would receive the consideration due to so interesting a subject. But all we can do in the matter we have done, by opening our columns to the discussion of the subject.

*Mrs. Coleman.*—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick is the Hon. Sec.; write to her at 20, Upper Wimpole Street. We believe the house has been bought, and is being furnished.

*Miss C. Thompson.*—We have not the slightest intention of allowing the subject to drop. We are only demanding just reforms—nothing more—but we never mean to let the matter rest until they have been instituted. We think you are personally interested, and therefore hardly an unbiassed judge.

*Observer.*—We shall be glad to insert your letter if you forward your name and address, not otherwise.

*Incredible.*—Your views are expressed by "A Woman" in this week's issue. You are quite right. *Gentlemen* on the Committee would be the best possible *antidote*.

## COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY. TWENTY-SECOND COMPETITION.

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

"Give your idea of what obedience should consist of in the offices of a Probationer, a fully Trained Nurse, a Sister, and a Matron respectively."

### RULES.

1.—Contributions must reach the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, not later than Saturday, January 31st, 1891, 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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