



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Notes, Queries, &amp;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.*

## THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—Many of your readers were glad to read the letter signed "A Woman" in your last week's issue. It is not an atom too strong, considering the gross abuses with which it deals. That a committee of gentlemen can permit such a system to continue is almost incredible. I also was present in the Lords' Committee room last July on the day when the Matron's "black book" was studied, and naturally adversely criticised by several noble lords. That the Matron of an Institution should be permitted to privately smirch the characters of innocent and modest young women, inscribing in a so-called official register the most revolting remarks concerning them, will "startle" a good many honourable men and women besides the noble lord who confessed himself so shocked by what he read. Mr. and Miss Homersham have my very sincere sympathy and admiration, that inspired by righteous indignation. They still mean to continue their attempt to have the scurrilous statements concerning the latter expunged from the minute book of the London Hospital—a volume, by-the-by, which evidently requires revision in other ways than this one.—Yours truly, A MAN.

## AN ENQUIRY WANTED HERE.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—May I ask you, as a Nurses' friend, to read carefully the enclosed statement of what we honestly believe to be facts? The matter is so serious as to need, we feel, some inquiry, and as soon as information is to hand respecting some minor details, we as friends and relatives of one of the poor sufferers (I had nearly said victims!) intend placing the matter before the Paddington Green Hospital Committee, asking for an investigation. We are anxious to know what has become of the first poor Nurse mentioned in the statement; whether dead or alive we do not know, nor even if she had typhoid.

I write to you asking if you would record the name and death in the next issue of the *Nursing Record*? Nurse Annie Bishop was a member of the B.N.A., and I know many of her Nurse friends, to whom I could not possibly write, take in that paper, and would there read notice of the death. I do not ask you to comment upon the circumstances detailed. As I say, we at present only call for an inquiry; we feel that to be the wiser way. Miss Bishop was my younger sister, and to me her loss could not be imagined—so patient, so sweetly sympathetic, and with it all so clever for so young a Nurse. It is not for me, her sister, to say very much, but letters and messages coming from near and far, from friends, patients (rich and poor), and from fellow-Nurses, would more than verify all that I could say. I give particulars below, and am—Very truly yours,

CARRIE CONINGSBY.

11, Himley Road, Tooting Junction.

CASE 1.—Nurse doing night duty at Paddington Green Children's Hospital, name unknown, taken ill; high temperature, and removed on the morning of 3rd or 4th of November last to Hospital, name of which unknown.

CASE 2.—Nurse Annie (Rac) Bishop, a former Nurse at the Hospital, sent for to fill the gap caused by illness of Nurse above mentioned; arrived at the Hospital from healthy country home, and is sent to sleep in bed only a few hours previously occupied by the sick Nurse. Sheets changed, but neither bed nor blankets changed or disinfected. Nurse A. Bishop worked on, feeling ill the following Sunday. Temp. 101 on the Tuesday; 102.8 on the Wednesday. Made no complaint, but fell down in a faint in the Ward on Friday night. Returned to bed until next morning, and then came home alone, a long journey across London, having seen no Doctor, nor had her temperature even been taken. Was immediately put to bed by her friends, who were very shocked at her state. Typhoid spots out on Monday; died in three weeks—9th December; aged 24.

CASE 3.—Nurse Alice Phillips, also doing night duty at Paddington Green. She had given notice to leave on the 22nd December, not feeling happy in her post. Worked on apparently without complaint until the month was ended. Returned home; was very sick immediately upon entering the house; put to bed; became very quickly delirious, and died in eleven days—January 1, 1891—from typhoid; aged 20. Told her friends she had been feeling ill, and upon her box being opened evidence was there found that the poor girl must have walked about and worked apparently suffering from severe diarrhoea.

[Probably the officials of the Hospital will supply an explanation.—ED.]

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Country Matron.*—We consider you have no grievance concerning the matter about which you wrote. The male head of the Hospital is right in being made acquainted with the fact that you are absent from your post at night. Public officials cannot act with the absolute freedom of private persons.

## 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.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)