

correspondent to pay a visit to the Infirmary and verify facts from personal experience, instead of, as must have been the case, judging from report only. (This is the only way in which such grave mistakes can have arisen.) There is another consideration I should like, lastly, to point out. By the New Scheme for Private and District Nurses, it will seldom happen that all will be away on duty at the same time; so, in any case of emergency, there will always be within the building itself a Nurse whose services are available for extra work in the Hospital, thus saving the expense of having to get one from outside.

With apologies for trespassing at such great length upon your valuable space—I remain, yours faithfully,

A LATE CARLISLE NURSE.

I WOULD venture to suggest to my correspondent that it would have been better if she had deigned to read the Editorial from which she quotes with rather more carefulness. Because then, probably, she would not have written to me at all, and certainly she would not have misinterpreted the words used. Mr. Editor was referring to the well-known rule that a well-managed Hospital is always prepared for emergencies. He pointed out that the Carlisle Infirmary had far too few Nurses in proportion to its available number of beds, and said, "If, therefore, only enough Nurses be provided in this Hospital to nurse seventy-six cases, and at any one day—say through a terrible railway accident—every bed is filled, what will be done for the extra twenty-four patients? Either they must be neglected, or the ordinary Nursing Staff must be greatly overworked." That is not an "insinuation." It is merely an expression of a serious possibility. I, at once, accept our correspondent's statement that there are twelve "Nurses." Last year's report of the Hospital stated that there were nine, but quite possibly our correspondent is right and the published statement of the Committee inaccurate. But "A Late Carlisle Nurse" has made out a much worse case for the Infirmary than I did. She states practically that there are only seven (and not even nine) Trained Nurses and five Probationers for one hundred beds—of which seventy-two are divided into "four large Wards," and nursed by four Staff Nurses and four Probationers. I presume that these four Wards have at least one Nurse and one Probationer on night duty in them, which leaves only two Nurses for the remaining twenty-eight beds and "Small Wards," both for day and night duty.

If "A Late Carlisle Nurse," considers this Staff sufficient, she must have imbibed a very curious notion of the duties which are usually required from a Trained Nurse. But, according to her, for three hours every afternoon and at least one hour every evening, each of these "large Wards" is left in the sole care of one woman, and on every

other afternoon this is the untrained Probationer. So that eighteen patients may be left for three hours at a stretch in the afternoon, their tea-time presumably included, in charge of a person who may have only been a day or two in a Hospital. Such an astounding state of affairs reflects much less credit on the Nursing Department of the Carlisle Infirmary, which clearly stands in more urgent need of reforms than our correspondents led us to believe. Finally, it will interest "A Late Carlisle Nurse" to know that in well-organised Hospitals, Nurses and Probationers are quite distinct terms, and are not interchangeable, any more than their work is; that the Staff of the Institution is organised on a scale sufficient for its complete working; that it is not considered good management to be compelled to go outside for casual labourers "in all cases of emergency"; and that more than one of our correspondents is intimately acquainted with the Infirmary. The Committee probably will pray to be saved in future from friends like "A Late Carlisle Nurse."

UPON Miss Dewing resigning her post of Matron of the Eastern Hospital, Homerton, she has been the recipient of numerous presents from her Staff. The Nurses presented her with a handsome travelling bag, accompanied by an illuminated address expressing their regret at her departure, and good wishes for her future welfare. The other presents from the servants are numerous and well chosen. In view of the uncharitable comments which have recently appeared regarding Miss Dewing's management of her Staff, it is satisfactory and pleasing to record this exhibition of good feeling.

I AM informed that a Quarterly General Court of the Governors of the Middlesex Hospital was held on Thursday, the 26th ult. Mr. Bell Sedgwick, J.P., occupied the chair, and there was a numerous attendance. The Court unanimously appointed Dr. James Kingston Fowler to the office of Fourth Physician, in place of Dr. David W. Finlay (resigned), and gave authority for the sale of £3,191 Consolidated Stock, to repay a loan from the Bankers and to meet current expenses. It was also decided to authorise the necessary expenditure for the installation of the electric light in certain portions of the Hospital, and in the Trained Nurses Institute, Nurses' Home, and Medical School. S. G.

WE regret that the pressure on our space—in spite of the enlargement of the Journal—prevents the insertion, this week, of the "Letter from Life."  
—ED.

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