

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I am not at all surprised to read that "Sister Catherine," in working in a Nursing Home, has only learnt what to avoid, and I feel sure that numbers of Nurses attached to Institutions in the West End of London, would rather be out of work than take a case in the generality of Home Hospitals. I can only recount my usual experience in these Institutions. One is sent for in a hurry, and generally to take charge of a severe operation which requires two Nurses, so that the Nursing may be efficient; instead of which a camp bedstead is rigged up in the patient's room, *irrespective of sex*, and the unfortunate Nurse is responsible for the unfortunate patient night and day. A conscientious woman keeps her eyes open (with terrible difficulty) for perhaps forty-eight hours after the operation; the unconscientious Nurse composes herself to sleep when night arrives, and trusts in Providence. Then no arrangement is made for meals; a Nurse gets a snack when she can, but nothing substantial is provided for her during the night. When it is recognised that under these circumstances a Nurse knows nothing of the routine of the house (if there is any), where things are kept, &c., it will be easily acknowledged that no really good system can be perfected, and in consequence the patients thoroughly well nursed. In many of these Homes the mistress is a person who knows nothing of Nursing, and is in consequence quite unfitted for the responsibility she has undertaken, and she is quite incapable of maintaining discipline, and is in consequence at the mercy of her subordinates. The only marvel to me is that medical men recommend their patients to undergo operations in Homes of whose arrangements they know so little, as I feel convinced no Doctor would approve of the disorganisation which reigns supreme in many of these Institutions.—Yours,
A PRIVATE NURSE.

IRISH DISTRESSED LADIES.—AN APPEAL BY THE MARQUESS OF WATERFORD.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—As I am obliged to go to Egypt for my health, I hope you will allow me to appeal to the public through your columns at an earlier date than last year, on behalf of the Irish Distressed Ladies' Fund.

As chairman of the London Executive Committee of this fund, I can speak from experience of the good work that has been done by both the London and Dublin Committees in assisting ladies who have been reduced from comfort to penury through no fault of their own, in consequence of the agrarian troubles of the last few years in Ireland. These ladies, have, as a rule, had nothing to do with the management of Irish estates, but their incomes have generally been derived from jointures or family charges, which incomes have been in many cases enormously reduced, and in too many cases absolutely lost. If the public would realise the position of a lady brought up with every comfort at her command being suddenly deprived of her income, I am sure they would subscribe to this fund more liberally than has been the case for the last two years. I regret to say that in consequence of the want of funds, the pensions and allowances have had to be largely reduced, and if it had not been for a few anonymous and most generous donations received lately, there would have been every chance of this most deserving charity coming to an end.

During the past half-year one hundred and forty old and delicate ladies have received pensions, seventy cases of illness have been attended to and relieved, numbers of children have been educated, and families have been assisted to emigrate. In addition to this, ladies have been given work to do, which work is offered for sale at either the English or Irish depôts of the Charity, and the ladies have thus been en-

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An Alphabetical List of the names of many hundred Trained Nurses with their addresses, the Hospitals in which they have worked, and the posts they have held therein, and the Societies and Associations to which they belong; also statistical and general information concerning the chief Nurse-Training Schools in the United Kingdom. Proprietors: The Record Press, Limited.

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