

## HOSPITAL AND INFIRMARY CHAPLAINS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—The writer of your article on "Hospital and Infirmary Chaplains" claims to be the master of his own department, and also that "the region of spiritual things belongs to the chaplain alone." Confining my observations to Infirmaries, I am amazed at the colossal assertion of your correspondent, who must know that the work of the said region is divided between the ministers of the various religions and denominations to which the patients may belong. The chaplain has no more power or authority in the Infirmary than the minister of any other religion or sect, who may have received the permission of the Guardians to visit the Wards.

Article 17 of the Local Government Board Infirmary Order places the power of admitting visitors to patients solely in the hands of the Medical Superintendent, and yet, while claiming this privilege, your modest contributor declaims against meddling officers "who are constantly attempting to extend their authority into a department with which they have nothing to do."

With regard to being uncultured, the Medical Superintendent can only express his deep regret at his deficiencies, and his hope that by perseverance and long-continued exertions he may attain the high degree possessed by the average Workhouse Chaplain.

With reference to the keeping of order, what would you think of a Chaplain, who, possessed of the "strong man" craze, tried to throw the representative of another creed out of a Ward, and who fought a number of rounds with a female patient, in the endeavour to possess himself of an article which he thought should not be in her keeping?

To conclude, allow me to point out to this representative of the Church Militant, that Article 41 of the above-men-

tioned Infirmary Order places all officers under the government and control of the Medical Superintendent.—Yours, &c.,  
A MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

## POST-CARD EXAMINATION.

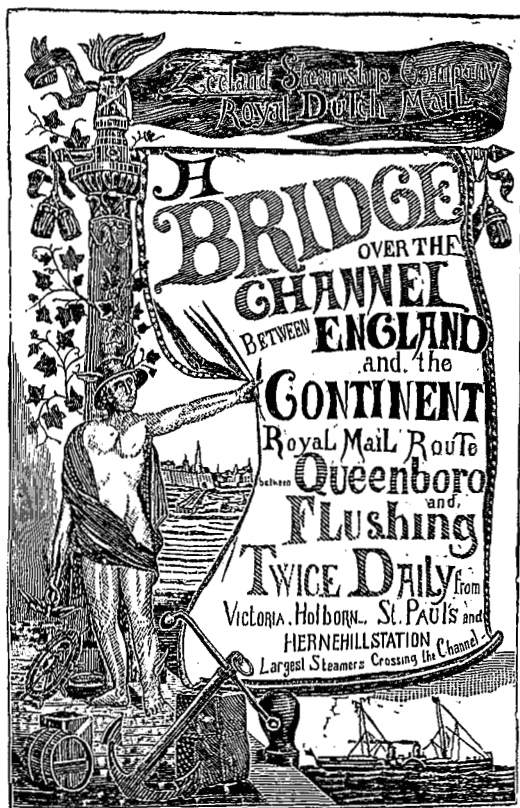
To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—I received the books safely this morning. Please accept my best thanks for them.—Yours very truly,  
MARGARET FALCON.

## HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I, doubtless, with many other Nurses, read with surprise and indignation, the sweeping and unjustifiable accusations made by Mr. Rathbone, M.P., before the Select Committee of the House of Lords, concerning Hospital Chaplains. That he is a Dissenter is certainly no excuse for cramped judgment in these enlightened days, whatever it may have been a century ago. I owed so much during my two years' arduous training to the sympathy and kindness of the Chaplain of one of our large London Hospitals, that I feel impelled to avail myself, Mr. Editor, of your kind invitation to express my views on the subject in your liberal columns. Other Institutions may be different, but I should say that no official in our Hospital worked under greater difficulties than our devoted Chaplain, and how patiently and devotedly he performed his duty, no one excepting the Nursing Staff, who are always about the Wards, ever knew. Any hour of the day or night he was ready, and we Nurses always knew that we could not appeal to him too often. It was a real pleasure for him to help and console the sick and suffering. Our Chairman, like Mr. Rathbone, was a Dissenter, and naturally had little sympathy with "priestly interference."



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