

old and infirm paupers, in a tone and manner that might have been used to dogs. A far larger number of officers of a superior class is urgently needed if we are to hope to see our great National Institutions managed as becomes a Christian State.—Yours, &c,  
 LOUISA TWINING.  
 February 2, 1892.

DISTRICT NURSING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Will you kindly excuse me troubling you, and grant a reply to the following query: What are the duties of a District Nurse?

Two of my fellow Nurses have obtained employment as District Nurses, and they are left by the Committee under the Doctor's orders, and though they have plenty of work, yet regular hours are allowed them for food, open-air exercise, and rest, and as they are Obstetric Nurses as well, care is taken that they are not sent to infectious or objectionable cases.

I, on the other hand, am solely under the orders of the Committee, composed of ladies only—no Doctor. I have two parishes to look after, fully three miles apart, and the out-lying hamlets of each, from one to two and a-half miles from each village. I am expected to visit these places all the week round, even while I had a case of night nursing for a fortnight, getting a sharp rebuke when the weekly reports did not show a sufficient number of visits paid. There was no use in appealing to the Doctor; he was not on the Committee; had not been consulted in the matter, and so would not interfere.

I have been obliged to resign, as the continual tramping round in all weathers, especially with night work to do, has been too much for me.

Is a District Nurse supposed to go round daily visiting the

parishioners? I can understand visiting the bedridden and aged people, and helping to lighten their weariness; but people in health, and working, resent it. I have often been met at the door and told that I would be sent for if required; there was no one ill in the house. Trusting you will excuse trouble, and soon oblige with a reply, I remain, sir, yours respectfully,  
 P. L. W.

[This letter, like the one we printed recently, opens up a wide field for useful discussion; and we invite our readers to express their views upon this matter.—ED.]

NURSING OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—As Ex-Medical Officer of Health to one of the largest Metropolitan Districts, and as one who has had an extensive experience of Poor Law Administration generally, I venture to hope that a few suggestions from me on the above subject will be acceptable to you.

When acting as Medical Officer of Health, some twelve years ago, I was strongly impressed with the conviction that all our efforts as the representatives of preventive medicine and sanitary science fell far short in checking the vast amount of infant mortality and deaths from preventable causes apart from those due to sanitary defects and infectious diseases, as compared to that undercurrent of disease and death arising from poverty, neglect and insufficient food. It was then that it occurred to me that our work needed backing up by some such Institution as suggested in your Journal under the above heading, to introduce domestic hygiene into the homes of the poor as far as practicable, and to improve their condition by ministering to their wants in the manner in which the following scheme will show. As regards the title, Nursing Officers of Health, I think this might be im-



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