

which both possess excellent schools for nurses, the probationers undergoing a systematic curriculum of both theoretical and practical training, and the former being, I believe, the only Poor Law Infirmary in the Metropolis which complies with the wise dictum of the Lords, and trains its nurses for three complete years—and at a very much less cost than the Marylebone system, which is conducted by the Nightingale Committee. I imagine the rate-payers of Marylebone are not aware that the expenditure in connection with the nursing of their palatial Infirmary is practically disbursed by a Committee over whom they have absolutely no control; but, considering the enormous price they pay for the maintenance of their sick poor, it is time the matter received a little of their attention.—I am, Sir, &c., L. S. D.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—As I consider the Third Report of the Lords' Committee in the light of an historical document—I have bought and studied it—I hope you will find room for my little say concerning it. I feel sure you will review it wisely and well, though perhaps not entirely from a nurse's point of view. The publicity which has been given to the question of nursing arose entirely from the courageous action on the part of Miss Yatman and her fellow sufferers, in exposing the régime in force at the London Hospital (no amount of noble Lords will convince those women who have endured the misery of this régime that they were not often hungry, very weary, and abject slaves). Before the exposé, the witnesses were only asked a few casual questions concerning the nursing department, just as they were questioned about the drains and the washing, but every succeeding witness was narrowly interrogated concerning every detail in connection with the nurses and nursing; and, thanks to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's masterly evidence, the whole question was simply and forcibly placed before their Lordships, with the result that a

revolution will take place in the conduct of these so-called Schools of Nursing if the conclusions of the Committee are to be complied with. All women possessed of the true nursing spirit will scout the eight hours day if it is to be arranged by three shifts, because with it good nursing would be impracticable; but with Mrs. Fenwick's recommendation of six nurses on day duty, and two or three on night duty to thirty beds, I believe the hours could be reduced to much below twelve hours without three shifts of nurses, and the patients be spared the constant change of nurses, which in special cases would be fatal to their comfort and recovery. At this crisis of our history, we nurses must recollect that the sick are human beings and not ward furniture. Suppose, Mr. Editor, we have a postcard competition upon this nursing question:—"Take a ward of thirty beds, place on duty six nurses by day, and three by night. How would you arrange their hours of labour so as to reduce the present hours of work, consistent with the efficient nursing of the patients?"—Yours faithfully, "REFORM."

Replies to Correspondents.

Miss A. Forsyth.—If you have studied the conclusions of the Lords' Committee, you will now see how sound was our advice to those women desirous of becoming nurses: "Enter no hospital," we have often said, "which will not guarantee three complete years of training in its wards, and especially avoid those institutions like the London, Westminster, and the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, which give only one year's training, or less, and then utilise their pupils for making money by forcing them to do private nursing for a miserable pittance."—ED.

[We shall be pleased to accept our Correspondent's suggestion.—ED.]

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