

But my sympathies are certainly with them if they are unfortunate in having many Probationers like Phyllis. Her reference to a titled friend (in a previous letter) and to her palatial home in her last letter, has not impressed me. But for that, I would have been content to think of her as one who had no chance of education or culture, and would, therefore, be satisfied to follow less dignified duties than those of a Nurse. Certainly, the scene which she describes is one for *her* to look back upon with humility and shame.—Yours truly,

MARGARET LADE.

Invalid Children's Convalescent Nursing Home,  
Wray Crescent, Tollington Pk., London, N.

P.S.—I should feel obliged by your kindly giving publicity to my letter. I should like the Matron and Sister (to whom Phyllis alludes) to know there is at all events one Nurse who appreciates and respects the dignity of their silence.

[We have read the Letter most carefully, and can see no justification for Miss Lade's criticism. We would suggest that Miss Lade should state how she would have behaved, if she had been accused "in the presence of the patients" of having killed one of their number. But we have referred this letter to our valued contributor, and have received the following reply for publication.—ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I thank you for sending me the copies of Miss Lade's and Miss Gale's letters. I question the knowledge of Nursing matters, possessed by Miss Lade—not her motives. Any Nurse would know that there is no Hospital bearing the name of "The Great Eastern," and, consequently, that there is no Sister Matthew in that Institution. What I have seen and heard that do I tell, and that—while God gives me strength and opportunity—I will tell. My blood has boiled at the cruelties—the injustice—the grinding tyranny—from which I have seen Nurses suffer, while I was being trained. I tried to get letters into the papers, to have questions asked in one

or other House. Editors most politely wrote me that they "feared that the result of my disclosures would be deeply detrimental to the great work which Hospitals are doing, and must, therefore, decline the serious responsibility of publishing my communications." My friends said very much the same thing. So I welcomed the appearance of *The Nursing Record* with gladness, and feel sure that some day you will receive the gratitude which is your due for your endeavours on behalf of Nurses. With your kind permission and approval I intend to expose, one by one, the most flagrant abuses which I have seen in one Hospital. I ask Miss Lade,—How much cruelty and injustice are women to bear because they are Nurses? How many Nurses are to be broken down in health and strength before a protest is raised against a system which crushes their young lives out of them? How much are they to be overworked and starved before they raise a feeble protest? Is it honourable of a Hospital Committee to treat its women servants thus—to promise and not to perform—to sweat such a profit out of their Nurses' labour as no clothes contractor grinds out of the day and night toil of his gaunt, begrimed, vermin-covered Polish slaves? I comfort myself by thinking that Miss Lade and Miss Gale have never seen what I have seen, in one falsely named Charity, in this Christian England. I see reforms are being made, but until wrong and cruelty are publicly exposed and righted, I will go on writing and working. I have kept note books, and I have facts, with chapter and verse for each, which I will tell if need be. I gladly grant that few, if any, other Hospitals are like the Great Eastern, but the many suffer for the sins of the few, and some day other Hospitals will awake to the fact that they have all suffered irreparable harm from the scandals which have occurred, and still constantly occur, in one or two of their number.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

PHYLLIS GRAHAM.

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JOHN SCOTT, Hon. Secretary.

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