

BERGEN LEPER HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—With regard to the objections Dr. Daniellssen makes to your "Peripatetic Correspondent's" descriptions of those Bergen Leper Hospitals she visited (for I strongly suspect that the "Mr. Shamrock" of Dr. Daniellssen's letter should be read "Mrs. or Miss S."), I can vouch for the absolute accuracy of her remarks, having myself visited the Lungegaards and St. Joergens Hospitals last summer. Taken from the standpoint of a charity, these institutions represent a good and valuable work; but taken as representative of modern sanitation and nursing, they are far behind the age. The "rich library" and the connection with "a bacteriological and histological laboratory," upon which the good doctor insists, may reflect credit upon the attainments of the staff, but can scarcely be said to add to the personal comfort and enjoyment of the patients. Cleaner and more cheerfully appointed quarters, an efficient staff of Nurses and attendants—in short, a reconstruction of these institutions upon more modern and hygienic lines would be more to the point, so far as the poor lepers are concerned. However, it is an ungracious task to cavil at what is, after all, a much needed and good charity, despite the shortcomings of its system. I write only for the purpose of corroborating "Shamrock" in every particular.—I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

NURSING WORK.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I sent a young woman to an Infirmary as Probationer—the first year she was to give her services for nothing, the two following years to receive £10. She was there two weeks, and returned quite worn out and with inflamed knees.

The following is a list of the duties she had to perform. It appears to me rather too high pressure, too much scrubbing, to leave time for much nursing:—Sweep, wax, and dummy wards; scrub scullery, cupboards, and patients' lockers; clean knives, forks, spoons, tea urn, and various tins and brasses; wash up crockery; keep bath-room and lavatories clean; besides the ordinary duties of a Nurse. I should like to have the opinion of some of your correspondents who may have passed through such an ordeal.—Yours truly,
MEDICUS.

Replies to Correspondents.

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Cecil.—Certainly not. The tradesmen who manage your Hospital are doubtless most estimable in their way, but they are probably overcome by finding themselves clothed with a little brief authority over gentlewomen. You are absolutely independent of their caprice, and should resolutely decline to be treated as an article of merchandise. You have signed a legal contract with them, and they are legally forced to complete their share of the bargain. They promised to give you two years' training in the wards of their Institution. You did not promise to go out as a thoroughly trained Nurse before you knew your work, and so help the Committee to defraud the public. They cannot compel you to do so. You may either refuse to go, or if you go, should state the facts—as an honourable woman—at once, to the people to whom you are sent, so that you do not participate in the fraud.

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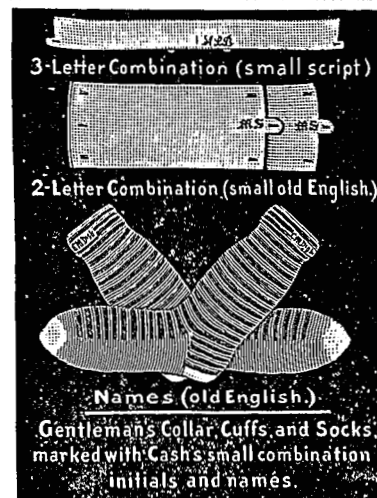
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