Hampstead N.W.
Sept 26/64
Dear Mr. Rathbone
I must plead my usual excuse for not having thanked you before for your beautiful ferns & flowers & grasses.
I do not think you need be troubled about not having all the accommo: dation x Miss Jones thinks desirable. She herself informed me of it: but her chief trouble was X Workhouse Infy=

that she was giving you "annoyance & trouble," & lest you should not understand that there was really no item in the Memo: which the Governor had not settled with her, none which she had proposed-
As for the Probationers, they will be better off than the Nurses (not Head Nurses) in the large majority of London
Hospitals were in my time; or I daresay are still.
You are very good to relieve my mind as to:
the expenditure you are undertaking. I assure you it weighed
upon me very heavily: because I thought we had led you into a
higher sum than you had
at first proposed -
I could not help telling Sir John Lawrence (in my letter of today's mail)
of what was going to be
done at Liverpool Work:
house. I am sure it would give him so much pleasure - He deplores
the state of the destitute Hindoos at Calcutta - But really the state of
London Workhouse Sick, as I remember them, was such that it is not for us to raise our
hands against Calcutta. Now Liverpool is going to raise her hands against us all -

[page cut off]

typed copy May 26/65 f3
35 South Street, {printed address:}
    Park Lane,
    London. W.
{top left corner; diagonally:} Private
July 42/66

Dear Mr. Rathbone,

    I reproach myself
that, in the hurry of the
last few days, I have
not answered yours
of June 28.

    The Committee (of 3)
have taken a step
in the right direction -
in placing themselves
directly in communication
with both Governor
& Supt=
    But they must not
cease to attempt the
obtaining of a
separate position for
the Supt=
    Until this is done,
nothing real has
been done.

    All the London
Workhouse enquiries
have centred on
two points: --
    1. bad Nurses
    2. worse Governors.

The Nurses did not
know how to nurse -
the Governors did
made bad nursing
worse by their
interference.
Substitute good Nurses,
& leave the worse
Governors over the good
Nurses And there will only
be added a new
element of failure
& discord.
We do not have the
Medical officers'
medicines & treatment

under the Masters
of Workhouses.
The far more important,
delicate & constant
element of Nursing
should still less
be left under the
Masters of Workhouses.

ever yours sincerely
Florence Nightingale
Dear Mr. Rathbone

Please consider this as part of my letter of yesterday; which I was obliged to send off in an unfinished state (in reply to yours of the 28th)

Indeed you can't think what a crisis I feel this to be in the Liverpool Workhouse Nursing - nor how anxiously I wish to put shortly & seriously what I want to say - as the result of all my experience viz.--that it is quite impossible to have a Training School, (to have Probationers,) under the present system or where any interference whatever of the Governor is possible --that it is merely running to certain failure.

If the Governor chooses, or thinks it right, to interfere with the Probationers - or with the Supt= about them she
should have the power of saying to him: - You must bring this before the Committee (of three) - And they, if they think well, must bring it before me -

It is absolute destruction for the Governor to be "intriguing" among the Probationers, as he does. [I can use no other word but "intriguing". Of course I don't mean it in an immoral sense.]

It is absolute, (not destruction, but making the whole thing a) profane burlesque for the Governor to govern by a mixture of cajolery, flattery & insult addressed to the Supt=. about her Nursing & Probationers. He has nothing to do with them, or it, in that sense.

It is absolutely impossible to go on in that way. The Supt= is not their Supt=. The Probationers are not her Probationers. It is all confusion &
ruin. How she can get
on for a single day
passes my comprehension
It is a government
divided against itself.
It is pure destruction
against of any training
or moral discipline
the Probationers can
get - & which is the
sole object of their
being there.
If the Governor is the
Training=Matron, let
it be said so. And
let her resign-
The Supt= should, on her
part, if diets are ill=
cooked, if she can't
get the Patients' clothes,
or hot water, if &c &c &c, complain
to the Committee, not
to the Governor-
in short, unless the
Supt= can be the
Committee's officer
& not the Governor's-
I wish to say, as
strongly as I can put
the words, it is quite
impossible to have a
Nursing Staff or a Training School at
Liverpool Workhouse
at all.
[I would go farther & say
that, suppose two or three Head Nurses, of high, vicious tempers, were to come in, they might upset the Supt's= whole authority in a week. They have nothing to do but to go to the Governor. She has no authority, no position. She not their Supt=.

And then what becomes of the Nursing?

I feel that this involves the whole future not only of Nursing in Liverpool Workhouse, but in all other Workhouses.

I have entered more into coarse detail in this letter than in any previous one. Because I feel that none but a woman, & a woman who has gone through the same kind of thing, (for herself & for others), as I have, for many years x-x [&c Miss Jones has not

3

{top left corner; diagonally:} Private the least idea of it-- she thinks she can go on as it is]

----------------------
can tell men:-- the absolute necessity of giving a proper position to the Matron, on the obvious ground that, unless this is done, it is impossible for you to do anything really important.

You have progressed gradually to obtaining
a better position for
the "nursing idea"
thro' your munificence

But no position, so far
as I know, has been
gained for the Matron
& Nurses.

Even since the Committee
was appointed, the
Governor has gone on
"training" [underlined 3 times] the Probationers,
just the same as
before in the way described.

[Indeed I don't know that
he is to be blamed.
It has been left to
be supposed that it
is his duty. And
that is his way of
fulfilling his duty.]
But under these circumstances, I have no hesitation in saying that, judging from my life's experience, I feel defeat so certain that, in order to save the cause elsewhere, I should, if my opinion were asked, advise the adoption of one of two final alternatives: --

1. To place Miss Jones in direct communication with the Committee for the remainder of the time she is to be in charge — or, like the Medical Officers, in direct communication with the Poor Law Board — so that the Governor should have no power to interfere with her.

Or 2.
2. that Miss Jones should resign, stating illeg. reas? the reasons.

I write as strongly as I can - because the evils which we have both of us known of from the beginning are happening every day.

And now is the time, once for all, to put an end to them.

[If they can't be put an end to, I can only say: - the position is an impossible one. And, as for training, it is out of the question.]

Personally, I am living in constant fear of the result. Because, if allowed to go on, the present system is certain to involve the whole Nursing reform in the greatest difficulties.
Altho' Mr. Villiers is "out", (which is a great loss to us,) something might still be done in London to bring the matter to an issue. I would do anything I can in this way - But I do not like to interfere, unless we can act in concert. You may believe how strongly I feel that it is now or never, by my making time to write at this moment. (When I have more to do than ever I had in all my life.)

N.B. Whether the training of ex-paupers Nurses could have succeeded anyhow, I am not competent to say. I only know that it must have failed in the way it was tried. Their Supt= was not their Supt=. She had no real power, no real authority over them. The Governor was their Supt=. And now, they are
doing just the same thing about the Probationers. And it is as certain to fail, (unless you get a class of angels, x) not th as the ex-pauper trial was certain to fail.
    It can't be otherwise
    It is an impossible position.
The Committee can make no real improvement, while the Governor is able to interfere with the
"interfere with" written over something illeg.}
    Probationers as he does.
---------------------------
X not the most "superior" class of women would do

Dear Mr. Rathbone
    I have no time to re=
write this letter, which yet I feel I must
send. Because I feel it is now or never.
    It is strictly CONFIDENTIAL [und 3 times]
& must be for yourself
ALONE.
    I need scarcely tell you that Miss Jones would disapprove it very much -
that she wishes to go on any way --
that she never thinks of resigning -
that she never "tells me everything" - or indeed
much of any kind -
& that she does not
wish me to "speak for
her."
But My letter is much longer
than I could have
wished. But I have
felt that, while I
kept to generalía, I
failed to impress you
with my strong conviction
of certain failure, if things go on thus.
And, tho’ I feel the
incautiousness & imprudence
of this letter (which
would horrify Miss
Jones) - & I would not
write it to any one but
you - it must go.
The whole tendency of the project of Workhouse reform goes now to this: -- to separate the paupers from the sick poor. The better a man for the Governor of a Workhouse, the worse for the Governor of an Infirmary. And the Workhouse Governor must have nothing to do with the Workhouse Infirmary. The waste - the deceits which pauper Nurses & pauper Patients practise upon a Workhouse & its Governor, are such that, even from the side of economy, what is said above is true. The really sick do not recover, the Malingerers return again & again to the Workhouse. Ever, dear Mr. Rathbone, Yours most truly & gratefully Florence Nightingale

I have written this quite early in the morning before London was awake. [end 6:268]

FN.
typed copy July 21/66 ff4-9
typed copy July 2/66 f10
typed copy July 4/68 ff11-15
Sunday Night
April 14/67
35 South Street, {printed address:}
   Park Lane,
   London. W.
Dear Mr. Rathbone
   I have read over your first 4 sheets - & think it perfectly good & admirable. I hope & believe it will do good.
The subject is an enormous one & one most urgent.
And you will deserve the world's gratitude if you can bring attention to bear upon it.
   I hear from all sides of the great change to which you refer - viz.
that the great Millowners
no longer know their men.

About 35 years since,
a cousin of my father's
in Derbyshire, since
dead, was apparently
intimate with all his
Mill men & women.

Now Waller, Cubitt's
successor, does not
know, even by name,

his Head Bricklayer —
who had been with
Cubitt 20 years —

I think your comments
most wise & fruitful

of suggestion.

2. I forwarded your
letter to Hy Bonham
Carter, to whom I had
already written (& spoken
to Sir H Verney) about
your generous scheme
for our taking the
Liverpool Workh: Infy=
(as we do King's Coll Hospl
& St. Thomas') — only for
training at your
expenoe for 3 years
for Workhouse Infies=
in Lancashire.

Hy Bonham Carter
seems inclined to wish
Mrs Wardroper to pay
a visit to Miss A. Jones
on this subject — to consider
together the possibilities.

I have not mentioned
it to either yet.
   Indeed, I do not
know what view Miss
A. Jones takes about the
matter. I will, please, write
to you more at length
about this.
   3. I have also written,
   (quite confidentially), to
Mrs. Wardroper, to know
what she would think
of Miss Florence Lees
- who is a gentlewoman
& has been 7 months in
training with us - as
a temporary Assistant
to Miss Agnes Jones,
in case the latter would
take her.

[added April 2004]
I have not written to
Miss A. Jones yet,
not quite knowing
how to break ground
at present—or what
you may have mentioned to
her.
1000 thanks for your
gorgeous ferns—
   Believe me
ever yours truly & gratefully
   Florence Nightingale
----------------------------
Monday. [add date]
Since I wrote this,
I have received the rest
of your valuable
pamphlet. I will
read it & let you know.
Indeed I cannot tell you
how much to the purpose
I think it. or how

thankful we ought
to be to you, I feel,
for it.
   F.N.
April 17/67  
35 South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane,  
London. W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone  
I have read over the  
rest of your little book  
And I can't tell you  
how much I like it.  
I only hope & believe  
that people will  
glean many principles  
out of it.  
It does not appear  
to me to want "flesh &  
blood" as you say  
Macmillan puts it.

Perhaps I am inclined  
to think, from experience,  
that it is always better  
to present to people, -  
whether it is to  
Government, to an  
Institution or an  
individual, - not a  
scheme but a principle.  
Because they can find  
objections to ANY  
scheme whatsoever -  
But there is a chance
that, if you present to them a principle, they may think - not what objections there are to this? but - how can it be worked out? -

[It is always easy to do the fuller thing afterwards.]

Now, I think you have done this. And it will be always easy to re-publish with fuller illustrations, details, notes.

[Perhaps I might even be able to help you to do this.]

But as far as my experience goes, I think it is better to begin with an anatomy, as the great painters did, & clothe it afterwards. In the same day arrived by the Australian mail for me from the
April 67  
35 South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane,  
London. W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

After carefully re-reading your "Social Duties", it seems to me that it is the first broaching of an enormous subject, which you will have to extend.

I don't think, as Macmillan says, it "wants "flesh & blood". And I don't think, as I thought at first, that to re-publish it with Notes & Illustrations is all that is wanted. It is like a First Chapter on Geology -

It is complete in itself - But, to give the whole Treatise on Geology, it will require - not Notes & Illustrations to the First (Introductory) Chapter - but a Second, Third, Fourth, &c. &c. Chapter. You will have to develop each of the immense subjects you have touched upon - but from your own point of view- not from ours
As for illustrations, an enquiry into the Jews' Charities would form a very interesting one -
A poor Jew is a (real)
brother to a rich Jew -
A poor Christian is an offence to a rich Christian.
That is the difference.
Dr. Cumming's system & organization of Charity in London would form another illustration. There, everybody knows everybody, thus preventing the mutual ignorance of disunited charities which you describe so well. But,
of course, in so very small a sphere as Dr. Cumming's Scotch Church, this is comparatively easy. Practically, the Poor Law question has half the maze & fog which it has been wrapped in taken away from it by separating entirely from it the (Workhouse) SICKNESS. And you were quite right in making that (viz. sickness) a central question, which indeed it is, or rather almost a solution-- of the Poor Law difficulty in your practical works in Liverpool.
This might be made into a Chapter in itself. The Sanitary or Preventive question might be made into another. There are sick streets as well as sick people - & to an experienced eye the expression of Countenance of a sick street is much the same everywhere, whether in Bombay, Valetta London or Sydney. One would have thought that, in a new country, like Australia, people might have had food which ought to be the nucleus of it, however.) I hope that your "Social Duties" may lead the way to this as well as to other reforms.

Believe me ever yours sincerely
F. Nightingale
May 15/67
35 South Street, {printed address:}
Park Lane,
London. W.
{top left corner; diagonally:} Private
Dear Mr. Rathbone
   I fully enter into your
difficulties - (& also into
those of Miss Jones).
   The enclosed letter I think
greatly improved by the
modification at the end.
   As you know, I think the
{pencil:} only solution of this question
(which I acknowledge
with you, is the greatest
difficulty you have had
yet) is ONLY: --
   temporizing &
   an arrangement {pencil to end of insertion:} (as you
have proposed) one I feared that the your
letter (at least the first
part of it) {pencil:} might otherwise will {struck out in pencil} only lead
Miss A. Jones to commit
herself - She will say: if
she can't conscientiously
admit R.C.s, she
can't conscientiously
admit R.C.s....And
then something about
idol=worshippers-----
The question has not yet
arisen. Whenever the
question does arise,
she will commit
herself & resign, I fear.
If you press her now,
she will commit herself
& resign now, I fear.
As you know, I think, in the great work she is doing now in the Liverpool Workhouse, (thanks to you), the Nursing point, tho' a very important, is only a subsidiary point. She has to organize the whole thing. (emphasis may be in pencil)

This being the case, I dread, beyond anything, weakening her hands - which is what bringing the question now to a point would do.

I dread beyond anything making her resign now by compelling her to think she ought conscientiously to answer your letter (which I fear may bring her to bay,) instead of letting her carry the reform as far as she can.

[In the Crimean War, I felt that the Nursing point, tho' a most important one, was only a subsidiary one. I had to organize the whole thing. The War Hospitals were only Workhouse Hospitals in an exaggerated form. Therefore I enter so]
much both into your
work & Miss A. Jones']
You know I can't but enter
into her view in one
way - No permanent Training
{insertion and emphasis in pencil}
Staff could be a mixed
one. But Probationers {pencil:} to be trained
(for other staffs) might
be mixed. St. John's
House could not (&
would not) take R.C.
Sisters & Nurses.
But they take R. C.
Probationers (Midwives)
for us. So does St.
Thomas'.
I don't quite agree with

you that the difficulty
lies--just whether you
shall send R.C.
Probationers, like
school-children, into
another room, while
giving religious instruction.
The difficulty lies - for
I myself have had
R.C. Nurses (& even
Nuns) under me -
is this: -- priests will
tell them to do some=
thing you have told
them not to do - you
will never find it
out except by your
own personal vigilance
and then {emphasis in pencil} you hardly know what to do.

[It has happened to me to find a ward momentarily abandoned by its R.C. Nurse - to hunt her up - & to find her in an officers's room - "What are you doing there?"-- Oh! the priest made me come to be present while he was administering the Sacraments to the sick officers. This particular thing would not happen to you - but similar things might. The same woman went & converted one of the

St. John's House Nurses.

The same difficulty did not occur to me with the Nuns {emphasis may be in pencil} - who were perfectly faithful to me. And perhaps no one has done so much as I in improving Nun=nursing.

But what those Nuns went through in their fidelity to me, no one knows but God & myself. The priests refused one the Sacraments when she was dying. I dragged them thro' by main force & by
resuming always
perfect amity with
the priests.] All this I have never
told to any one. And
it is sacred between
you & me. To resume what I feel: --
the longer you can put
off mooting the
question of R. C.
probationers, the better.
I see no difficulty
in training such, --
and we do train
them. But Miss A.
Jones has done (&

is doing) so great a
work (under you) --
and her views are so
decided that we
must, I fear,
contemplate the
possibility that she
may resign, if
pressed to decide
the point. If it is possible to
temporize till the
question is absolutely
raised, & then to
deal with it, it
would be better.
[Whenever I see her,
I will talk it over.]
(pencil:) To explain: --
To temporize, if possible, would be all the best policy.
E. g. in the event of any R. C. probationers presenting themselves, could it be stated that, in the present phase of the Workhouse Nursing question, & until it is firmly established, it would be better not to introduce any new element at all -- for fear of the whole movement being imperilled, if not wrecked.

[The experience of myself & of many wiser than myself, has been that the priestly influence if introduced once into any compound body of Nurses, must end in one of two things, either in eliminating the R. C. element on account of interference of the priests - or in breaking up the whole system on account of the impracticability of
the two elements
working together.
The head of a body
of secular Nurses
requires to be as
supreme in all
Nursing matters as
is the religious head
of a R. C. or Anglican order.
We are never sure
that our secular
R.C. nurses may
not be taken away
from express duties
of one kind to
duties of another kind
(for which the Superintendt=
is never asked her
consent).

[I would add that
the anecdotes I
have related above
never happened in
the Hospitals where
I had my Head Quarters.
They happened where
the priests were
not so much afraid of my Assistant
Superintendts as
they were of me.
And they were
discovered only by
my unexpected
visits.
I feel as Miss A. Jones
says: -- if only the Govnor=
be is {correction in pencil} as afraid of my Assistant as he is of me?]
It is not so much
the mixture of
religious elements
we have to fear -
  It is: - the Constant
tendency of priests
to interfere on
religious grounds
with purely secular
work which
every Supt= who has
acted, as I have,
over mixed bodies,
will tell you is
what we have to fear.

I entirely believe
that a way will be
found out of the
difficulty in {"in" written over another illeg. word} the end. But it will
be found by temporization
& arrangement.
And if it is only possible
to temporize till
the question is forced
upon you, so much
the better.
[I am always anxious
to take the side
of the R.C. rate-
payers. Still you &
I know that, for
every £ they pay, they receive back £2 from the Rates. However, that is not the Question] {pencil:} with them ever yours sincerely F. Nightingale {added in pencil} You know best whether the question is upon you already. All I can say is:- if it can be put off, put it off -- if you can avoid raising it, do so. If you can't, then I think your letter to Miss Jones is as good as it can be.

June 22/67
35 South Street, {printed address}
Park Lane, London. W.
{top left corner; diagonally:} Private
Dear Mr. Rathbone
I had not a moment yesterday to thank you for so kindly sending me your "Social Duties."
I had been anxiously looking out for them & had even ordered Macmillan's Magazine to give away (for I am no great Magazine reader) - but found, to my great disgust, in the June No=, no Social Duties. I believe that this
volume combined with
your practical work, will make
an era in English
Charities. and I am
sure I care, more than
for anything that I do
care for, that your
example may be followed
in London & all over
Great Britain.
In London, charity is an
amusement, just like
horse=racing.
There is no feeling of duty, no
idea of business about it.
Good people often abstain
from it, because they
think it increases the
evil it is meant to cure.
people of business, because
they think the money
does not reach the objects
it is intended to benefit.
Otherwise, money, by itself
money, would never be
wanting in London.
If you could make, by your
example & precept, people
give their work, their
systematized work & habits
of business, as well as
their money, - the large
unpenetrated masses of
vice & misery which
now disgrace London
& our great towns would
at least be broken up,
if not swept away entirely.
What extraordinary powers
of organization (for a bad purpose) have lately been revealed by the disclosures of the Trades' Unions' & Sheffield Unions' Commissions?
The power of organization seems all to have descended into the artizan class.
Why cannot Englishmen of the upper, the educated, the business class, shew the same power of organization in their "social duties"? -- Ritualism is an amusement, just like charity, just like horse-racing. And why can't people, (a man like Mr. Hubbard, for instance,) do like you, instead of spending sums

{same printed address upside down in bottom left corner}

untold in founding Ritualistic churches? -
The mass of children, growing up to crime, in London - to take only one instance - is hitherto quite untouched -- tho' a few hundreds are rescued here & there.
I was amused by the observation of a very enlightened man, a Frenchman, (which he has since put in print,) on a point which struck him with astonishment, but which we are too much used to for it to surprise us. He said: - how is it that you allow yourselves to be taxed
for these Workhouses for the people to go into, while you organize private Charities to save the people from going into these Workhouses? - Had I had your book then, I should have put it into his hand. In reply to your question, I am quite sure I could distribute 20 copies of your Essay (off-hand) with advantage - not only in England, but in our Colonies. I grieve to see the same state of things, as with us arising for instance, in N. South Wales.

If you will kindly send me, as you propose, say a dozen copies, I think I ought to find the rest myself.

{the next 11 lines are enclosed by a square bracket on the left}

I rejoice to hear that your District Nursing is likely to be imitated in the East of London. You know I never shall think that we have done any thing in London, till we have nursed not only all the Hospitals & all the Workhouses, but have divided London into convenient districts for Nursing the sick poor at home, including Midwifery Nursing,-- including the supply of
Sick Comforts - & taking the Convalescent into the country to recover - as you have done at Liverpool. I rejoice to think that there is likely to be asserted at Liverpool a principle which will work so immensely for good as that you mention about a Country Hospital. I sincerely hope & trust that, even beyond the sphere of our Christian religion, your example will spread & take root. Lately I have had from Parsee merchants in Bombay a desire expressed that I should found a Training School for Nurses there. As the Government has been in correspondence with me for founding such Training Schools in India, I must of course, be careful, that such efforts should work into one another, not clash with each other - also, not to speak of them prematurely. I only mention this (privately), because I do think a better era in Charity may be inaugurated by your book & most of all by your work - Believe me ever yours sincerely F. Nightingale
July 9/67
35 South Street, {printed address}
Park Lane,
London. W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

As you positively desire it I write to say that I could distribute nearly as many copies of your "Social Duties" as there are people who are, or who think themselves, gifted with a power of organization.

I have received one or two very encouraging answers from people who had already done a good deal & who are glad to be taught to "look up" what they have done. [I take for granted that you have sent a copy to Sir John McNeill]

I have also sent a few copies to America & Australia & to London clergy who have done anything in the way of organizing.

I should like to bring it before the Bishop of London, who has some (& thinks he has much more than his,) share of the power of organization.
In the copies that you were so kind as to send me from Macmillan, there was not your little printed letter. in haste

Believe me ever yours sincerely,

Florence Nightingale

If you are so good as to send me more copies, do not send me more than a dozen or twenty - Because I think people ought to buy for themselves. And indeed one of the people who answers me says that he shall make as many as possible get the book.

610 RAT 1/10 signed letter, 2ff, pen [6:281]

Jan 22/68
35 South Street, {printed address:}
Park Lane,
London. W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I have felt so very much for you & for Mrs. Rathbone at the loss of your dear child.

It is hard to say at such times: The Lord gave & the Lord hath taken away --blessed be the name of the Lord.
The Lord hath need of this floweret wild - as the German hymn says - Do you know the other German
hymn telling the story of a little, precocious
darling child,
like yours, said to
have really happened,
that, when it was ill,
at night, it said, what
music was that? - And
the mother said, there
was none. And it
whispered:
The angels call me with their
songs
good night, my mother dear -
--and so died.

But I will not take up
your time. Pity those
who have no children to
lose! or to mourn -

I am glad you think
there must be a "clean
sweep" of the Workhouse
officials.

I hope, after all that
Liverpool Workhouse
will come out a Model
Workhouse by degrees.
It is far more likely
to do so by the laying
bare of abuses than
by whiting the sepulchre.

ever yours affectionately &
gratefully
F. Nightingale

I trust that Mrs. Rathbone is

pretty well - And you too-
And your children - But
the dear little place
which is for ever empty
is not filled up by these -
tho' these are not less dear
but more so. -

FN.
Feb 8/68
35 South Street, {printed address:}
Park Lane,
London. W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I know how heavy has been your loss - a loss heavy not only for his family & friends & his own immense circle of duties but for England & the world. And yet I am not going to write to you about this but about our dear Agnes Jones. Three or four days ago, I had a note from her (rather a long one for her) saying that she was "resting in bed" but that "Dr. Gee said she "only wanted rest", that I was "not to be anxious" about her, as she "was not ill"

[I put off answering her letter partly because I thought it better to leave her a few days' peace, as my letters# to her must always be full of her troubles.]-

I heard nothing more till last night, when I was told (in a round=about way) that she had "Fever" - that she "had a day and a night nurse"- that you & Dr. Gee had been with her, I supposed for the purpose of removing her if that had been possible -
I should have telegraphed to you for news, but that I did not like troubling you, with such a heavy burden on your own heart & shoulders.

I know that you will do everything for her that is most kind & of the greatest service - & that, if she can recover, she will have the best chance in your hands.

I write merely to ask you opinion of her state.

I think I will write a line to Dr. Gee too.

But, if you could spare me a word, I shall be truly grateful to you.

I shall not write to Agnes Jones herself, till I know whether she is in a condition to receive letters without injury.

ever yours sincerely
F. Nightingale

I will send to Mrs. Wardroper (who is ill herself) for news of Agnes Jones - every day - in order to save Miss Jones' attendants useless writing.

F.N.
Feb 20/68

35 South Street, {printed address:}
Park Lane,
London. W.

{top left corner; diagonally:} Private

Dear Mr. Rathbone

For her, it is well. For us, it is terrible.

But our darling had a very happy life. Though no one knows but God & myself what she went through.

Both things are possible.

I regret nothing, believe me. She thanked me over & over again for having persuaded her to go to Liverpool Workhouse. I am sure she was happier there than ever she was in her life.

She has all along told me of your great kindness, of Dr. Gee's, of every one's.

Her last years made her only the more fit for God.

It has been a noble life - & she has had a death to be envied.

I regret nothing, except that I reproach myself - I think I ought to have said this last year that, if she would not go away for 2 or 3 weeks, I would come down myself to fetch her. You know what she always said -
that the new Governor must come - that the Assistant must come - that she must take over the Female Hospital - before she could have a holiday. All things were settled from the first, we know, by God, of His good pleasure & not of His "wrath."

I know that you have done everything for her that love & skill & money could do - that you made created her work & did everything for it. And that is what she cared about.

Let us say: - All is well.

I am sure, if she could speak, she would say: - you have been her greatest benefactor on earth.

But the thing is now, how to continue her work.

I am in full consultation with Mrs. Wardroper & Mr. Whitfield as to your questions - & will let you know the moment we come to any opinion.

Of course our opinion will be for you alone.

Most unfortunately Mrs. Wardroper, who has been ill for weeks, has had a relapse since Monday
[It is not dangerous, I trust & believe. But it is very tedious & painful.]

It was a miserable comfort to me, during Agnes Jones' illness, to hear one of these dry London officials here say: that hers was one of the most valuable lives in England.

I feel for the Nurses, so very much - I don't think they are unreasonable. I never knew any one, like Agnes Jones - & never shall again. I never knew any one who had the same power as she had to carry them with her under difficult circumstances.

We must all of us do all in our power to calm & encourage them. I trust & hope in God who will take care of His own work that they will all stay & do their best for His sake & for her sake who lived & died for Him & for this His work.

In many important ways, the work is now easier, owing to the new Governor, owing to the Sub=Committee &c &c.

I will write to the Nurses, as you desire, in a day or two.
About your Obituary Notices,
I think, with you, that She
would not have liked it.
She was very humble -
But I dare say, with you,
that it would please &
encourage her poorer
followers -
I therefore took counsel.
We sent, as I telegraphed to
you, your Notice in your
own words - (and in your
own words I think it
should appear in the
Liverpool papers -) for
the Daily Telegraph, the
paper most read by
the best lower classes --
& slightly altered, for the
Times & Daily News -
& a little more altered
for the Pall Mall Gazette

(which makes a mock
at every thing)
the whole - not to be put in the
Obituary - but inserted
without being headed as
"Advertisements" -
the whole sent to your
London house.
I hope that you will not
think I have exceeded
my instructions.
We have done our best. [I did
not much like the mention
of my name -]
In case I should not be able
to give you Mrs. Wardroper's
opinion before post time,
I write this letter. But I
will write farther -
God bless you -
ever yours, in sorrow but in
gratitude & hope
   F. Nightingale
{same printed address upside down in lower left corner.)
March 27/68
35 South Street, {printed address:}
   Park Lane,
   London. W.
{at left; not FN's hand: *see page 2}

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I do not feel that I can
do what you ask me about
obtaining a consent to the
Tenerani statue being put up
to her memory.
   When I try, the whole
thing rises before me - the
awful character of the
sacrifice they have made
to God's work.
   They can only say:
we gave her for God's work.
God keeps her memory. She
is with God.
   If you say;- we
want a statue to keep
her memory for us -
they could not but answer,

that is for you to decide -
not for her mother & sister-
don't ask us.

   People who can make
such a sacrifice in
such a heavenly way as
they have are not
those who will care for
Memorials.
   If it is to be done, it
must be done without
asking their leave.
   If they had been people
to have given it, they
would not have been
people capable of making
that awful sacrifice.
They ought not to have been asked. 
They have refused; and rightly. 
Their refusal is final, so far as they are concerned unless the Bp of Derry could make them think otherwise.

But their refusal still leaves you to act in the matter, exactly as you may generously think fit.

The Statue need not be in memory of her but in memory of her services. In this case the family would have nothing to do with it.

Suppose, for instance, you were to put up the statue:—
"To commemorate the services & early death (or: the public service & early death) of Agnes E. Jones first Lady Supt. of the N. Nurses in Liverpool Workhouse Hospitals this statue is placed" "Feb. 19 1868."
they could no more forbid it than I could.

ever yours Florence Nightingale

{written across main text in centre third of back sheet: The proposed Monument's inscription may be FN later in life; in another hand}
some other Hospital before coming to Liverpool,--) I feel, [6:309] now & always, that, with a view to her due authority with her Nurses, it is desirable that she should stay long enough at St. Thomas' to learn the reason of the routine as well as the routine itself. For this purpose, if the Miss Smyths could be induced to stay so long, it would be very desirable that Miss Freeman should stay from 2 to 3 months at least at St. Thomas'-- (as was done by Miss Merryweather &c &c) {written interlineally here and between next two lines: About Miss Freeman; not FN's hand} Unfortunately, as you know, Miss Freeman cannot be released from her present employment till 7 May.

I am sure that all will agree that it is very important for her health & prospect of usefulness that there should be no undue hurry in her course previous to coming to Liverpool.

Pray believe me dear Mr. Rathbone ever your faithful friend & servt Florence Nightingale
typed copy May 13/69 f37, no handwritten
Dear Mr. Rathbone

Miss Jones' Memoir

I will remind you of one or two little things which you might, if you thought fit, urge on the Bishop of Derry. & which he cannot know, except thro' you-

One is: that much of the Memoir is false, as representing what Agnes Jones did- & in direct contradiction to letters written by her in confidence to me a day or two after the same dates in her Diary. Much of that Diary was written under feelings of oppressive ill health, of morbid discouragement, of misunderstanding thro' her deafness- & also of momentary petulance of which she would have been the first to accuse herself.

A day or two after, she writes to me in quite a different (& practical) tone.

Is it fair to her to represent her thus?

The other is: the total ignorance of her family of anything but a very small clique which in their opinion the world moves round.
The Bishop can hardly recognize to what a degree this falsifies the Memoir.

[E.g. a comparatively small thing - & which I give only as an illustration, because of course this identical matter does not come into the Memoir. One of them wrote to me that it was what she said of me to her friends in Dublin which made the Govt= send me to the Crimea.]

It is Mrs. Higinbotham's dreadful ignorance of the way the real great world's affairs are managed which makes the Memoir so offensive. & so little of a true representation of Agnes -

{The following 4 lines written interlineally in small script}

She wrote to me, if you remember, that every body (!) knew what Agnes had done - & that therefore the absence of any account of this in the Memoir was of no consequence!! This is exactly an illustration of what we mean.

I will also remind you of a very curious passage in Mrs. H.'s letters to me, throwing all the responsibility for making the Memoir decent for the public on the Bishop of Derry. She stated, almost in so many words, that she did not think it incumbent upon herself to avoid that which might be offensive to sensible people or indiscreet, because the Bp of Derry would see it & take it out - From all the circumstances, you will see that the materials do not exist for a life of Agnes Jones, other than a sketch - I do not say like my sketch of her in "Una", because that is a most imperfect sketch - but still, if there are not the materials from her letters or diary to make a good religious memoir, like that of, e.g. Hedley Vicars, if there are not the materials in her family's knowledge (of her life), to make a real Memoir of what she did, such as that of Pastor Fliedner' of Kaiserswerth or of Mrs. Fry - a truer idea of her would be put before the world by a Sketch done by a hand like the Bp of Derry's than by all that wishy-washy morbid tawdry stuff I read saw in M. S.; gossippy twaddle or indiscreet.
I should not have recognized Agnes Jones from it.

But perhaps even the Bishop of Derry hardly knows how different all that is from the real work of an Institution, from the real work of such a woman as Agnes Jones did.

[To my mind, it was little less twaddle than all that which came out on the unfortunate Laurin v. Starr nunnery case. And by this she will be judged!]

A year's delay would certainly be a clear gain, if nothing more can be obtained

[Has Mrs. Higinbotham been home to consult the papers which she said she could not remove from thence in order to fill up her Memoir?]

I feel that I can only remind you of what we have both thought & leave it for your consideration whether you can urge it plainly on the Bishop -

ever yours most truly

F. Nightingale

I was so worn out with business that I hid myself (from my Creditors) during Easter. This the cause of my delay.

610 RAT 1/16 signed letter, 2ff, pencil, typed copy ff41-42

{printed address:}

35 South Street, May 17/70
Park Lane, W.

{top left corner; diagonally:} PRIVATE [3 underlines] [13:614-15]

Dear Mr. Rathbone

Possibly you may be expecting to hear from me about Miss Lees with regard to the vacancy at Lpool Workh:-

I am so very sorry to hear of your difficulty there. It is always on my mind - If there is any body we ought to help with any resources we have, it is you. And it is a grievous affliction to me that we can do nothing to help-
About Miss Lees: -
She has completely set her heart
upon a certain Department
of Nursing (which must be
a secret for the present)- &
never left me any rest till
I got her admission to live
& learn in the Military &
Civil Hospitals of France - a
very difficult thing to do, &
she is the first English Protestant
but one who has done what
she is doing- To the best of
my knowledge, she is in these now.
But where at this moment I
do not know - as she is a
most irregular correspondent
- and I am a worse.
I doubt her leaving her training
to come over for the Workhouse.
I doubt her accepting it,
either temporarily or altogether-
I doubt her mother consenting-
But there is even a stronger
doubt in my mind-.
I do not feel that I could
conscientiously take the responsibility
of recommending a person - however
high an opinion I had of her-,
to the Superintendency "of such a large &
"complicated machine as
"the Liverpool Workhouse," who
had had no previous experience
in superintending- unless she
went, as Agnes Jones did, (& as Miss Torrance has gone to the St. Pancras' Highgate Infirmary) with a considerable body of Nurses, known to her, trained with her, almost chosen by her. [And Miss Torrance reminds me that I said to her when discussing “St.:P.'s” for her, "ah "my dear soul, if the Infirmary "were IN the Workhouse, as "elsewhere, I never could "have had the courage to "recommend you to take it".]
I feel therefore that all that I could do, with regard to Miss Lees would be, if you wish it, 1. to find out where she is- 2. to put you in communication with her- ever yours truly
F. Nightingale

{signature is horizontally cut so bottom half missing}

610 RAT 1/17 signed letter, 3ff, pencil, typed copy ff43-44

{printed address:}
35 South Street, May 26/70 [13:615-16]
Park Lane,
W.
{top left corner; diagonally:} Private
Dear Mr. Rathbone
I will not repeat what you know--how grieved I am for the Lpool Workh difficulties --but answer your question about Miss Lees:
I think I told you that she was, to the best of my knowledge, in the French Military Hospitals. She came over to see me at Christmas - She has written to me once since - I should
direct to her

(Miss Florence Lees
à l'Hôpital Militaire
du Val de Grâce
Paris
& ask for it to be forwarded.
= If you write to an old Crimean friend of mine
A Monsieur
Monsieur Michel Lévy
Directeur du Val de Grâce
Val de Grâce
Paris

It might be safer, (asking him - what you as a man of business - think best,-- whether to forward a letter, to her, or to tell you where she is-)
= There is one other way - to write to
Mrs. Lees
The Lindens
St. Leonard's on Sea
& ask her to forward a letter to her daughter, or tell you where she is -
To this last there is the objection that Mrs. Lees disapproves of the whole concern - of

Liverpool Workhouse in particular - & of me in General - (tho' she rather softened towards me, when she saw how much pains I took to lodge her daughter respectably at Paris)-
I wish I could give you more certain hints - But I do not even feel sure whether Mrs. Lees always knows where her daughter is.
[There was some idea of Miss Lees going to the Naval Hospitals at Brest. But I do not think she is there yet.]
You must not tell Miss Lees that I urge her to take the Lpool Workh:-- For indeed I cannot. But I will not weary you with repeating what I have said before.

God bless you - ever yours most truly
F. Nightingale

God save the Lpool Workh:--

Dear Mr. Rathbone
I cannot tell you what a relief & consolation it is to me that you have found some one likely to suit for Lpool Workh:--

God grant that she may prove all that is desirable!. For the rest of your kind letter, many thanks- I will not now trouble you farther, the less as I
most fervently hope & trust
that present arrangements
will succeed - & be permanent
[I entirely concur with Mr. Cropper in this: that
Workhouse Nursing is
somewhat different from
Hospital Nursing - Agnes
Jones always said that a
great deal devolved upon
her which in a Hospital
is settled by House Surgeon,
Dresser or Clinical Clerk
in charge - as the case may be

& not by the Matron or
Superintendent or "Sister"
in charge-]
   God bless you & prosper
all your ways-
   ever yours sincerely
   Florence Nightingale

610 RAT 1/19 signed letter, 4ff, pen & pencil {on black-edged paper}

35 South St.
   Park Lane W.
   March 31/74
Dear Mr. Rathbone
   You must not think that it is not always my
greatest pleasure to be
called upon to do ever
so little for you who
have done ever so much
for us {written over "me"}.
   And I am much more
troubled than you can be
to think that yours of the
14th= has been unanswered
so long: It enclosed the
letter of the

Boston people

wh: I return: & your request
for a list of Books on
Nursing.

The books mentioned in the
note to the Report of the
"Nightingale Fund", sent
herewith, are those
bearing on the subject.
[Could you tell me: this is
for me, F.N.;--
where to get copies of your

"Organization of Nursing in
a large Town"?
Longmans declare it to
be out of print-
I have long since given away
my last copy-
& I am continually asked
for it.
How valuable would it be
if you would now reprint
it with your present
experience of its
Liverpool Working for
9 years!]
I would add to the
Boston List
Handbook for Nurses
by Z. Veitch
Manual for Hospital Nurses
by Domville
(both published by Churchill
New Burlington St.
London
2/6 each)

Also:
Miss F. Lees'
Handbook for Hospital Sisters
publd by Isbister: Ludgate Hill
London 5/.
Mr. Hy Bonham Carter will send you some of the back Reports of the "N.F." & also a Reprint of my paper in the Blue Book (Report on Metropolitan Workhouses) "on Method of training Nurses for the Sick Poor."
He will also send "Notes on Hospitals" & "Notes on Lying-in Institutions" as a gift from the Council of the "N. Fund".

Miss Stephen's "Service of the Poor"- Macmillan 1871 - might be also mentioned.

Now: I must apologize indeed for my delay in answering: Yours was put into my hand just as I was coming down here. Embley - Romsey - to my poor mother - [We have to remove her from her home of 56 years-] I lost 2 homes in 3 weeks by death: my dear Father's & Mrs. Bracebridge's. Added to this, business: India business: Nurse= business: has pressed upon me more heavily than usual lately-

And I am sure your kindness will excuse me. Let me not close this without thanking you again for the ever-recurring proof of your kindness, and [written over illeg.] subject of my gratitude: the beautiful flowering Plants-
And pray believe me dear Mr. Rathbone ever yours gratefully & sincerely Florence Nightingale
[I date from London: where I have to return almost immediately].
F.N.
Private
Embley
Romsey
April 25/74

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I have just received a letter from Miss Florence Lees - She gives her address care of Messrs. Brown, Brothers & Co. 59 Wall Street New York U.S. & asks me "for work" in "September next". [I refer you to my last to you about her.] A thousand thanks for 12 copies of your "Organization of Nursing" &c received: (in haste to catch the morning post) Yours ever sincerely & gratefully Florence Nightingale
"Nurses for the Sick Poor" at home. [35 South St. Park Lane W.]

Wm. Rathbone Esq. MP. [1] June 16/74

Dear Mr. Rathbone: In compliance with your desire:

[Do we not all most earnestly wish that something should come out of all this for London District Nursing? But, to do anything, we must first know what we are about, what has been done, what we wish to do, what can be done: & the best means of doing it: & the best practicable means of doing it.

As far as can be seen from the Society's printed papers, the simplest data for all these enquiries are not yet in their possession: And the most practical step that I have heard of them taking was: their consulting {illeg. FN? me?}

But of the results of this {illeg./struck out for 2 lines}

1. Your own conclusion is not only the wisest but as appears to me the sole course that they can pursue. Namely: that the only practical way of bringing this question before the Public is: a. carefully to put together a concise statement of what has already been done in this line: b. then to invite various representatives of the
various workers in this direction to confer as to the best means of bringing their experience to bear upon the common object:
c. possibly of uniting several existing bodies in one Association:
So far from not thinking this a grand enough object, you & I at least shall agree that, if they never got farther than a. they would have done London a great, an

2 inestimable service.

The densest ignorance prevails as to the amount of District Nursing: ["Nursing for the Sick Poor", as they call "at home" no doubt they mean:] in London
Some say it is nil: they themselves appear to believe it so: [tho' they give us not the slightest information on the subject: if they have any themselves:] Some say there is too much: some, too little.
You yourself have been told that "London"

is over District nursed. Other experienced men have said that except where some Sisterhoods work and several Benevolent Societies (some Nonconformists xx) who employ one or two or three untrained nurses, there is no District Nursing in London, worthy of the name.
Let us make a guess. Should you not be surprised to find that there were a score employed (in all the Metropolis) of really trained, qualified women,

xx This is mentioned, because, of course, these would not conform to "ecclesiastical boundaries".
in really nursing the sick poor at home? But is not the very first thing to
do to clear up this point for any Society with the proposed object of this
one?

There are no doubt Nurses employed by District Visiting Societies and
Sisterhoods. You, I am certain, would suggest

suggest /make them do it; that the Charity
Organization Society be invited to
obtain information
as to the Number of Trained Nurses
employed
and by whom and of untrained Nurses
in every parish.
Let them give us the result of such information
(as referred to in a.)
Therefore they propose "Relationship" to us?

Let one or two of these associate themselves
to provide a Record of information.
Might not the "Health Association help?

2. With respect to farther steps:
-are there not very great difficulties in London
as regards local jealousies - the clergy, the
Medical men, the existing District Societies?
Would not their opposition be at once aroused
in many parts by a central ex cathedra
interference or even advice?

The Charity Organization does good in affording means of inter communication among districts: & also has promoted more united work within districts. This is available: Would another Central Association be useful for the particular purpose? Might it not do harm?

It is however premature to discuss this:
Since one must know one's ground before one can proceed to lay it.

And as far as informing us {illeg.}
the Committee appears to have taken no means of knowing their ground: previous to rushing before London {illeg. in? with?} a Public Meeting

3 [11 another hand]

It is impossible to exaggerate the need there is of District Nursing for the sick poor in London
It is far more important than any Hospital Nursing:
[text here fixed in Liverpool]
I have been penetrated with this all my life:
but if possible 14 years of experience have only confirmed my conviction of the way in which alone it can be done:
Namely by putting each Hospital (Where alone Nurses can be trained) into a state fit to become a Training School: and our main object at St.

Thomas' has been to train Nurses to undertake Hospitals with this view:
that local organizations should then be formed
who should either from a Hospital a centre of their own train Nurses for the sick poor at home: or take them ready trained from such a Hospital: such organisation giving that local superintendence which Nurses nursing the sick poor at home most of all local & which to be effectual must be local
What possible Superintendence could be given from a Centre in such a place as London?
Are not the essentials of Superintendence to know
the needs, & the means of supplying them,
better than the people to be superintended do
themselves?
to keep the Local Superintts up to their work,
these do the Nurses?
And if Superintendence were given from a Centre
in such a place as London in such a work as this
would it not be as likely as not to drag down the
local work? instead of raising it? What can a Centre
know of the needs of Local Districts in such a metropolis as London?
Will not the danger always be that Nursing will
degenerate into mere giving? too.
5a  And will not this danger be much increased
by a General Society as a Centre: especially if the
men whom [illeg] I see
I know a case where half the District Nurses have
degenerated into mere givers: Givers of money,
wine, food & bedding: never put a hand
to the Nursing. And -- the poor like it better
And this in spite of a very efficient Central Superintendence.
Will not the thing to be aimed at be:
that by degrees (as we did with our Midwifery
Nurses) the poor shall pay or almost pay
their District Nurse?
Will not this again be hindered rather than
aided by a Central Power?
I only mention these things as a few data out of many: to be judged

[10]

No institution
in its sane mind would profess to train Nurses
for the poor at their own homes Without
giving the Probationers under training, (in addition to the Hospital
course,) several
months of teaching by the sick bed-sides of
the poor at home: under proper Superintendence. This is
quite essential, both as a matter of experience for the nurse, & as a means
of testing
N.B.  For the above plan it is probable that the
Association would be able to procure
1 Trained Supt-
and 2 or 3 Head Nurses
if needed in remodelling the Hospital selected
to make it a Training Institution.
But if they have the promise, from any Institution or Institutions, of a number of "qualified Nurses" to begin District Nursing at once, do not you & I know that these women will be untrained, unskilled, useless & ignorant: adventuresses who come for the pay: NOT trained women who sell good work for good pay.

Note. Is it not probable that a greater benefit would be conferred on the poor by providing, in the first instance, trained Midwifery Nurses?

If Lady Augusta Stanley had not objected, one would have thought that the poor Committee had better first have combined with the new plan for a Nurses' Home in connection with Westminster Hosp... have carried out the Liverpool scheme for that part of Westminster wh: is adjacent & this without the aid of any Central Association

It seems premature to touch upon the relation of Nurses for the Rich Sick & Nurses for the poor sick.
- Sir R. Alcock calls the proposed Nursing scheme in connection with Westminster Hosp: only nursing "in private fam

Many Institutions have found one great difficulty of retaining trained Nurses in any Association or specified line of work: the temptation which the more profitable & more independent employment Nursing the Rich affords - It is believed that Liverpool & St. Thomas' have not met with this difficulty-

But I have been told expressly by one of the largest Nursing Institutions, & one mentioned in the 'St. Joh[an of] Jerusalem' Report: & by very many smaller ones country & town: that all their Nurses were virtually taken up in nursing the Rich: & that practically they did little or no Nursing among the poor at all.
Is there not always a difficulty, most felt by the be{st?}
Supts=, in combining the two objects of providing Nurse{s}
for the Rich & for the Poor: a different character
woman & a (to some extent) different preparation
being required?
At Liverpool they select divide, after training & after TESTIN{G}
those for the Rich, those for the poor, & those fo{r}
Hospitals, into 3 classes sets, I believe - And this seems
a sensible way.
But it is necessary sometimes to re-temper Nurses for
Rich by passing them thro' the Hospital again
[We at St. Thomas' &c are Solely for the poor: i.e. {for?}
Hospitals & Infirmaries]
{text seems to be missing on both sides of page}
[We intend before undertaking to train for Hom{e}
{Nu}rsing among the poor to provide the essential
{ing}redient of adding a course of teaching Nursing at the home bed-sid{e}
{Have?} the 'St. John of J.' Comme= any idea of the necessity of providing
this? {illeg.}
The question of providing a system of Registration
& certificates & the essential objections to it
has been fully discussed by me with Dr. Acland
The Memo= speaks of such a "Register" for
trained Nurses" - [trained WHERE? by whom CERTIFIED?]
- but entirely omits mention of any means by which it
can be done. We earnestly deprecate any (general) plan of the kind
xx It may be added that whereas it is an essential part of good Hospital
Nursing not to waste the Nurses' strength & hands in cleaning, scouring,
washing &c: it is
an essential part of Home Poor Nursing that she should be able to do (or
(help with in)
all of these things.

12. The defective condition of Workhouse Infirmaries
is altogether ignored as well as the field afforded
by them for a basis of operations.
13. May we not state that there is at present very
considerable difficulty in obtaining properly qualified
Candidates willing to be trained as Nurses?
Would not women qualified to become Nurses among
the poor at their own homes be in some respects
more difficult to find than those intended to work
in Hospitals?
They would require more supervision: & be under
far less: they would be exposed to temptations of a

[19 in another hand]
different kind:
--the means of testing their capability & trustworthiness
for such work while under training would be less
How could any Central Association of the kind proposed
afford the proper machinery for "selecting" women
for their "aptitude".--- except, as you say, as
Agents to hear of women, & let women hear or
the means of training?

[12]
14. Should they not begin by an Example of what can be done in one locality?
-Will it not spread itself by degrees?
ought not A Central Society, later be of some use for
assisting poorer districts?
When an evil has arisen, it will be time enough will it not?, to devise means for the cure?
Should not local effort precede Central Inspection?
Must not the right person for a Lady General
first prove herself fitted by a small beginning
[another hand 21]

-for which is a grand Association wanted?
And, when largely extended, will it not probably be?
far too much for one person?
At any rate begin at the bottom - would not you
& not at the top.
Otherwise: will not all tumble down?

16.
Supervision of Home Nursing among the poor
is so desperately needed because the poor themse{lves}
are their own enemies.
Instances have been known of frightful Surgical
disease where the District Nurse has neither
dressed the case nor changed the bed linen hersel{f}
and the poor have liked her all the better:
She bringing all sorts of gifts: including sheets.

17. Lastly: please let me repeat most
emphatically (in answer to your kind proposal
that I cannot accept any kind of Office, actua{l}
or nominal in connection with this Associatio{n. It}
would be wrong: it would be a fraud on my part.
I have a little more to do each day than can be d{one}
in the 24 hours -
And I am wholly unfitted- by imprisonment to one fl{oor}? from illness- from doing locally what of all th{ings}
requires local knowledge & presence & enquiry - most
-or from anything but wishing well -- which I do wi{th my}
whole heart, mind & soul -- to any such object as {}?
Pray believe me, dear Mr. Rathbone, ever yours
faithfully & gratefully Florence Nightingale
Miss Lees
35 South St.
Park Lane W
July 12/74

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I am extremely concerned about your trouble in this matter.

I enclose a letter of hers to me.

If I were you, I would take her at her word viz. "formally request her to act as Secy=.

I would not say that you do so upon seeing a letter from her: that would not be wise: but should she again decline, I will quote her own letter to her for which purpose please return it.

I think it of even more importance to herself than to the work that she should do this thing. And in my letter to her I told her so: & a good deal besides.

If ever her great cleverness is to be turned into solid sense & work, It must be now.

ever yours sincerely

F. Nightingale

I agree with Miss Lees that the District Nurse needs a higher training than the Hospital Nurse: the Distt. Nurse has to stand much more alone

F.N.

She was to return to St. Leonard's yesterday.
Dear Mr. Rathbone

I make haste to thank you for telling me what is going on: (upon which I will not send you any lucubrations of mine to day): & to answer your two questions:

Don't take "Mrs. Shaw Stewart": (as a Lady Member): yes: I "know" her. She was with me in the Crimea: She was afterwards Supt= of the Army Nurses: She has extraordinary good work in her: but a perfect incapacity of working with any one: she was compelled to resign by the W.O. But I feel almost certain that it is not she who is meant: but "Mrs. Stuart Wortley": Whom I know only by reputation: & if Mr. Wigram answers for her, I should think her a safe person enough: I mean, as to backing him up & his views:

2.// I think an "Executive Commee= of 12 (say)," provided you name 2 & Mr. Wigram 2, & these 4 are 4 "of 6" to name the "remaining the members", tolerably safe.

But for work is not an "Exec: Comm": better of 7 than of "12": & of 5 than of 7?
I always think that, in a SMALL Commee-, he who knows & works 'carries it', but in a LARGER Commee, he who talks & does not know 'carries it'.

may we not learn valuable lessons from the London School Board? the Board, including the 2 ladies, of 30 members, did nothing but talk & drive poor Lord Lawrence mad: the ladies contributing a great deal more than one fifteenth to that result.

but the small Exec: Commees= of 3 & 5 & 7,--consisting of the very same people,--including the ladies,--for the Several branches, did most valuable work on these, especially the ladies.

I think your "Ex. Comm: of 12" will throw out thus constitute its small Commees= for different branches of the work: & certainly 'ladies' have as much to do with Nursing as with the Education of girls: & if they know ANY thing, might do valuable work on some Branch Commee= [There are, however, Ladies on the Council who would utterly wreck any Exec: Commee=]

This is my view: but I would much rather trust yours.

After all, so much depends upon the Secretary- If you can find a Secretary who would really master the thing & have time to work it, he is the most important Exec Comm: [What I have found in my
Dear Mr. Rathbone

I think it better, after consideration, to send you this rather odd note of Lady Burdett Coutts: & to ask you whether you would wish to proceed further: & what, if anything, you would wish me to reply to her: Please return me her note: & believe me most sincerely yours

Florence Nightingale
typed copy Jan 24/77 f64

35 South St.
Park Lane W.
Jan 28/78

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I come to trouble the patron of Nursing:

May I venture to apply to you for leave to nominate you as one of the Trustees of the so-called 'Nightingale Fund'?

Its original Trustees were: Sidney Herbert, Lord Ellesmere, Mr. Bracebridge, Ld Monteagle, & Ld Houghton- I have survived them all, except Ld Houghton:
& Mr. Edward Marjoribanks, subsequently appointed, is about to resign.

It becomes necessary to appoint three new Trustees to act with Lord Houghton.

It would give me such great pleasure if you, as the tutelary spirit, would act: tho', knowing how far too busy you are already, I should scarcely have presumed upon your kindness to propose to you to undertake the office were the duties likely to bring any serious call upon your much occupied time: but these (the Trustees’ duties) do not go beyond the holding & investment
of the Trust funds: & no change in the latter is to be called for in all probability unless it be occasional sales of Stock which may hereafter by required by the Council to meet the objects of the Trust.

The Trustees are a distinct body from the Council, in whom the administration of the Trust is vested: And the Council have full powers of dealing with both capital & income of the Fund for the objects of the Trust.

Should you desire further information as to the nature of the Trust, the Secretary, (my cousin, Henry Bonham Carter,) will be glad to call upon you, and would, if you wish it, send you copies of the Deeds of Trust for perusal.

I should feel a good deal ashamed of myself for troubling you, dear Mr. Rathbone, but that it seems as if trespassing upon such kindness as yours does not constitute a trespass & pray believe me ever yours sincerely & gratefully Florence Nightingale

Wm Rathbone, M.P.

"Lady" to take charge "for 18} Lea Hurst Months" of part of the Liverpool) Cromford: Derby "District Nursing:" } Sept. 12/78

Dear Mr. Rathbone

We owe you too much for us to make not the best possible effort to supply your wants. But I cannot find any lady of our own training worth recommending to you for the above who is now at liberty.

But a Miss Williams who is now staying here has mentioned to me a Miss Darcy who might suit the purpose. [Miss Williams
I have known intimately for 7 years:
she was trained by us:- was Assistant
Supt. at Edinburgh Infy= for some years:
-then Matron at St. Mary's Hosp!-l, London,
where she is now. She is certainly
one of the ablest of our people: & I have
always kept up a more than usually
close acquaintance with her.]
Miss Williams had, for a short time, at
St. Mary's- to fill a vacancy as 'Sister'--
this Miss Darcy who has been 5
years 'Sister' at Winchester Hospital (&
trained there) - Miss W. says that Miss
Darcy is one of the most thorough 'Sisters'
she ever knew: with health & energy
à toute épreuve: & a peculiar talent
for making Nurses work & making them
loyal to her: With great power of order
& management. [Miss Darcy spends
her holidays!! in taking Situations to fill
temporary Sisters' vacancies at different Hospitals
in order to learn different systems!].
She leaves Winchester this month permanently.
Miss Williams would take her herself

immediately as Night Supt=. if she
had that post to offer her now. And
I should snatch at her for either that
or a Hospital 'Sistership' from what
Miss Williams has told me of her.
Of course we neither of us know what she
would be in DISTRICT Nursing:
But I thought you might like to hear of her;
She is, I think, 42 years of age.

ever yours sincerely & gratefully
Florence Nightingale
Pray excuse delay & this pencil scrawl. I trust you have had a Good & refreshing holiday & with my poor blessings & prayers unexpressed believe me ever yours gratefully & faithfully Florence Nightingale

(note on back; not FN's hand, Oct. 1881)

typed copy Sept 5 1881 f69

Univ of Wales Bangor 37616, typed copy Sept 21/82 f70

Univ of Wales Bangor 37617, typed copy Sept 22/82 f71-72

Univ of Wales Bangor 37618, typed copy Oct 2/82 ff73-75

Univ of Wales Bangor 37619, typed copy Oct 13/82 ff76-77

Univ of Wales Bangor 37620, May 7/83 ff78-79

Dear Mr. Rathbone

How much do I always give you joy of your unfailing springs of good— As far as I understand Mrs. Hobson's letter (returned), they at Constantinople want ? "two" Nurses for Nursing of paying Patients, tho' she does not exactly say so, with Some District
Nursing, IF I think, as you say, these Nurses must be "ladies", & that "£30 a year" is scarcely enough, or "12/6 a week when not employed", for board. Can they be "directly under the orders of the "Committee", who probably know nothing about the conditions of Nursing, without Stipulations being made for them? At all events must not one of them be head, with a somewhat higher salary [top of text cut off to end of line] than the other?

I think Mrs. Craven, as you say, would be the right person to apply to & she would also advise about conditions. But how to keep up efficiency without supervision? I earnestly hope that Mrs. Rathbone has been restored by the Riviera - & that you are
well. Good speed-

Sir Harry Verney has had a hard fight- thank you for asking. On Monday again the Doctors were desponding. But yesterday & this morning he was making real progress--

I can never thank you enough for the beautiful flowering plants which continue coming- which I enjoy with the warmest gratitude but with much scruple - God bless you.

ever yours faithfully & gratefully
Florence Nightingale
{most of signature cut off}

Oct. 13/85
10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone
I had again to thank you for your great goodness in sending me beautiful flowering plants another year, added to the many on which I have enjoyed your gracious kindness.

On July 25 I stopped the plants, for I was going out of London to my Sister who is now, alas!, a great Invalid. It was not for want of gratitude that I did not write to express such poor thanks as I could offer for
such great & continuous kindness
which I feel I have taxed
too much - but from
illness & over-pressure-
And then it came too near
the time of my return last
month. Since I returned,
the man has called twice;
but I would not take in his
plants. For indeed,
dear Mr. Rathbone, it is
too much. I have disappointed
all the Doctors by living;
and I could not take

advantage of your goodness
by preying upon you for
life.
My gratitude - but - what do I
say? - God's blessing is
yours for ever for what
you have done for Hospital
Nursing, Workhouse Nursing,
District Nursing. No one
has given it such an
impulse as you. When
I think of what these were
30 years ago, & what they
are now - - - what progress
God has given during these
30 years! Much, much

remains to be done; but I
believe that, tho' I shall
not see it, far greater
progress will be given
during the next 30 years,
especially perhaps in
Workhouse Nursing - and,
I trust, in Military Nursing,
which is now the lowest,
instead of the best.
May God bless & prosper you
I do not say, for He has
& He will

typed copy March 26/87 f82
10 South St. Park Lane W.  
May 7/87

Dear Mr. Rathbone

How can we thank you enough for your Address at the Meeting of the Ne. Home at St. Thomas'?
How can we thank you at all for all your labours for the Nursing cause?
They are beyond thanks-
God bless you-
ever yours gratefully & sincerely
Florence Nightingale

June 4/87

{printed address:} 10, SOUTH STREET, PARK LANE. W.

Thank you, dear Mr. Rathbone, for your kind note about "Woman"- I find that such a communication as Miss Rosalind Paget asks for involves me in so much correspondence from other people that, with even more than the reluctance I always feel in declining the least request from you to whom we are so immensely indebted, I am obliged to decline -

Yes, indeed, I am [13:86]
grieved to the heart that St. Bartholomew's did not take Miss Gibson. They have made a strange mistake, which will do much harm to the Nursing cause, in their choice -

Fare you very well.

God bless you

yours ever gratefully

F. Nightingale
Aug. 7/87
{on printed paper; "gothic" print;  
on angle at left top: Telegraph,  
"Steeple" Claydon, Bucks.;  
address at right: Claydon House,  
Winslow,  
Bucks.}

Dear Mr. Rathbone
I received your kind note  
by 2nd post yesterday  
(Saturday) afternoon - &  
am very sorry for the  
inconvenience which I fear  
I have caused you by  
detaining your paper so  
long. I hope to return  
it to you with the  
smallest possible delay  
Pray forgive me & believe  
me ever sincerely yours  

Florence Nightingale
Dear Mr Rathbone

I rec'd a visit from Sir J Paget yesty afternoon, [I did not know till he told me that the comtee of Advice consisted solely of him, Sir R Alcock & the D of Wesmr I am very glad of this) The scheme of which they decided the bare outline on Thursday has gone in to the Queen!! Thro the D of W to Sir H Ponsonby) She is to decide & then remit it back to the Com of Advice if approved in its outline, for them to work it out in its parts. Sir J. Paget told me (you will kindly observe that I, being sup posed to know nothing of the matter must not be quoted) that the outline consisted merely of a plan for dis nurses to be spread all over the country to affiliate any of the existing Dis Nurses Associations that chose to from L’pool, Bloomsbury &c &c & including midwifery nurses. Sir J Paget entirely repudiated the idea of “1000 nurse” of beginning otherwise then slowly & thoroughly
Dear Mr. Rathbone

Your letter just received— Many thanks. I hasten to obey— But in doing so, I shall echo your words.

No doubt about accepting; But the D. of W. who is at once their Chairman & yours would of course wish for conditions, on both sides, of acceptance. These cannot be laid down at an hour's notice. He should wish to be consulted on those conditions, at least as important to the Queen's Fund as to you.

The words "take over & work" he would scarcely accept as your Chairman without asking some questions— [opposite views have been entertained by the other two members of his Committee] on what this should mean.]

These he can answer as Chairman of the Committee of Advice

1. Are you to retain your local self-Government?
   They can scarcely suppose themselves better able to "work" the Association than the (now experienced) "Association" is.

   What is the Governing body to be? i.e. their Executive Committee?
   [You will remember that one of the "three" (Com mee=) of Advice) strongly insisted upon local self-government being preserved.]

2. Whether the Queen's money & influence will increase, not supersede, your Subscriptions will depend on the 'careful work' done, & on enlisting the public, & the localities, in interest in the local District Institutions: which will be your branches.
3. Is the offer to "take over & work" meant to include other District Associations everywhere which are "disposed to accept the offer"?

How then is the standard of work of Bloomsbury to be kept up?

The danger is, of course, levelling down instead of levelling up to the highest standard-

Or is it intended that a sort of centralization should take place, with Bloomsbury as the centre, inspecting all other Institutions (Consenting to incorporation), & re-training Nurses who fall short of the standard?

How is a friendly rivalry & co-operation then to be 'kept up'?

& local publics to be interested in local Institutions? And how again is the standard of work of Bloomsbury to be kept up?

These questions are in the essence of the "offer" you have to "accept or otherwise", & could not be supposed to be asked out of curiosity, but because you should know what the "offer" is.

"Approval" is all that can to day be given, Subject to suggested arrangement. i.e. accept generally in outline with general conditions in outline, & fill up details afterwards, in concert with your Chairman, the Duke F.N.

God speed the work!

I do not know what the "outline of the proposal" was, "talked over" by "you" & 'Mr. Craven' "Last August".

(see p. 2)
2

Throw Throw upon them, the Committee
of Advice, to "suggest"
"Arrangements" to 'keep up the
'standard' &c &c Which you
can "approve".
rather than you 'make conditions'
which they are to approve
FN

Might I hear from you? [end 13:800]

{envelope}
{top left corner; diagonally:} Private
& Confidential
{across top:} to be kept till Mr. Rathbone's
arrival
W. Rathbone Esq M.P.
23 Bloomsbury Square
F.N.
30/11/87

610 RAT 1/35 incomplete letter, 7ff, pen & pencil. [fixed at Liverpool
2004], typed copy ff102-07

10 South St. W. Private
& Confidential Dec 3/87 [13:803-05]

Dear Mr. Rathbone
I am as it were knocked down by this letter of Sir R.A.'s
to which your own is the only answer. viz. that it is
"not possible to attempt all this at once"- that you
must "establish first the M & N. as a Centre"
"perhaps employ Liverpool to train &c" & "step by step
"work out an organisation".

You are not men to sell your philanthropies for
a slice of the "Queen's Bounty"- You might negotiate
a sale in a few days. It will take weeks even
to give make him a scheme- then years to work it out.
Otherwise the only result will be the ruin of the best
of the existing organisations
Sir R. Alcock's letter does not give you information enough to answer-

Disencumbered of phrases, it must be a proposal only to make District Nursing good & universal under the Queen's name-

And you are to propose at a day's notice a ready cut & dried scheme to do this vast work----

You would perhaps wish to notice in the few details that are given some omissions:

"1" Would you not put in: -first a month's test before the "Hospital training" or before engaging whether the Probationer would take at all to District Nursing- This would help him to realize that you cannot get 'a thousand District Nurses' out of the Hospital 'unemployed' in a year-

[Sir Jas Paget apprehended this at once]

3 mos in a Maternity Hospital to make them competent to take charge of poor women after the confinement." This is just what most if not all Maternity" Hosps= do not teach.

Mrs. Craven taught it.

"2" - "4" - top of sheet 2

? all entire co-operation! & united action! of all existing Associations & Institutions throughout &c  ? all "linking together" top of sheet 2.

E London Probably they must - they cannot help themselves since the Queen's daughter is President, "incorporate" or "affiliate" or whatever it is called, E. London How can E. London & Bloomsbury be "linked together"? Either one must rise or the other must fall; & I am afraid the latter is more likely.

If you "link together" a butterfly & a mole, you do not make a bird-

Is E. London to "train Nurses" for the "Queen's bounty? "Edinburgh"

Sir J.P. spoke to me about this- And I made enquiries at the fountainhead.

[Chapter "on Snakes in Iceland". There are no snakes in Iceland. There is no District Nursing Association in Edinburgh. Some of the Churches have a District Nurse or two. Tho' some of the Nurses furnished have been excellent, they have resigned, probably for want of such an organization as Bloomsbury or Lpool. And it has not been successful.
I have not seen Mr. Craven's letter or your "Resolution," & am writing somewhat in the dark. I do not understand now whether Bloomsbury is to be the Central Institution, with inspecting & re-training powers-
Or whether they are going to make "similar enquiries", as would seem by top of p. 2 (2), separate offers & proffers to "all" the different Nursing District Assns as to you & to Bloomsbury.
As Dean Stanley once said in Convocation, "you cannot make out of 50 white rabbits one black horse"
Pray make your terms about Liverpool & make them strong.

"3/" "voluntary superintendence" "medical comforts & nourishment"
You, I believe hold fast to the District Homes-
When there were only isolated Nurses of the "servant" "class", living in lodgings or at home, local Lady Supts= were absolutely essential.
I think I have understood you that you would not recommend them now to other large towns where each District Home has its own trained Supt.
-Where there are too many local charities already, & you do not want another charity, another agent, but that the trained Supt= should know to what agency (e.g. parish, under Doctor's order, clergy, Socy District Visitors &c &c) to apply for necessary things-
Also: perhaps you would think it doubtful that the District Nurses now should not be a separate body, as it makes them restless to be interchangeable to be able to ask to be sent back to Hospital.

Training. Mrs. Craven presses that some Nurses of the lower or Middle class should be trained at Bloomsbury, taking perhaps another house - thinking it bad that all Supts= should be trained at one Institution, all Nurses (of a lower class) at another
Still "3/" "moderate salaries:" improvement on "bare maintenance plus decorations."
Otherwise there is a vast deal of Sir R. Alcock in Sir R. Alcock's letter -
Still "3/"       ?Bloomsbury

"Central Institution undertaking to provide them"
You They the Central Instn- Bloomsbury have too few already - They are quite unable to provide all that their your branches ask for
The "Queen's Bounty" will not create District Nurses by a cheque.
This is not by any means to represent the thing as desperate. It is merely to say how wise your letter is - slow beginning - working out.

3

"5/"  There come the "3 millions" of qy pence?
again.
[I cannot help feeling a little surprised that his two colleagues should have let Sir R. A. write this letter. which does not give you information enough to answer. A Prusso-German friend of ours, formerly Private Secretary to an Imperial person, then First Secretary to a great Embassy, has been had over to Japan without other instructions apparently than that he is to 'do Court' there in Japan, & teach them to 'do Court'.
Without instructions, without information, on the vaguest of outlines, Sir R. A. is asking you to 'do' District Nursing all over England &c & teach them him to do District Nursing all over England &c
I was exceedingly sorry that Bonham Carter was not at home for the Bloomsbury Special Commtee and exceedingly rejoiced that you were-

He will be back from America, please God, on Monday week, Dec 12-

They cannot buy Bloomsbury between this & then Will he not be in time to help support you with the negotiations?

Rocks ahead
I do feel a feminine dread: if Sir R. A. is to be Chairman of the new "Central Administration Commee" will not you the experienced administrators of this work who ought to be the ones put on the Committee find it very difficult to work with him? You have worked out first principles out of your experience - he has only diplomatic phrases & a great desire to make a show.

But he is very fearful of making a failure-

And herein lies safety. He is more likely to listen to "working out step by step an organisation" as you say.

I feel how useless & little to the point is this letter except as corroborating & illustrating your answer, which [to consult your "colleagues confidentially as to its questions concerning" yourselves]

"not possible to attempt all this (in Sir R. A.'s letter) at once
"to establish first the M. & N. as a centre  
"perhaps employ Lpool to train some district Nurses  
of the servant class  
"& step by step work out an organisation  
"to be well advanced in our plans before we go to  
public for funds  
"suggest some general rules on which Lpool & perhaps  
one or two established Assns= could be affiliated as an  
experiment  
[You perhaps might do this at once; but we could  
not do it in an hour]  
You may well hope not to have any of the St. Katharines  
on the Executive Commee=  
Decorations "to suggest that that should wait" till you  
saw how to arrange to give fairly decorations to those working  
under many masters spread all over &c

4  
"Inspection--how is that to be managed?  
--"dispersed Nurses will have to be inspected if the  
"centre is to be in any way responsible for keeping up  
"the standard".  

Dear Mr. Rathbone  
Your four valuable documents  
I have most carefully read &  
pondered, namely  
--Sir R. Alcock's "Note" on  
"Dublin Nursing Assocns="  
--Your Memo= on this "Note"  
--Mr. Bonham Carter's letter to  
you of May 1  
--your Memo= on that letter  
As you are so good as  
to wish me to say something,  
I can only say what you do  
not wish me to say that  
your boundless generosity is
so deeply felt in regard to this
your scheme, including the
District Nursing plan of
Superintendent & Nurses
drawn from the three
Institutions--
& it is so well understood how
desirable it is for the sake
of Ireland now to
take advantage of it
that one can only bid you
God speed amidst difficulties
which are enormous, but
which, as you so justly say,
are opportunities for who

knows how to profit by them

Under the circumstances
it may well be that there
is no alternative- And I
need hardly assure you that
our best wishes are yours
that it may succeed in the
highest sense- Let every
one concerned endeavour to
work out your proposals in
the same spirit as yourself;
And that will be success.
I would say: we pray God
that it may succeed. But we
know already that He wishes

wishes the greatest good to
this Nursing of His sick poor,
even more than we can.
In Him therefore who inspires
you we put our trust.
May He give many more years
of you to this kingdom
ever yours gratefully & truly
Florence Nightingale
I always send you my gratitude
in my heart for all your
kindness to me. May I add
this now in ink?
F.N.
Private
August 6/89
10, South Street, Grosvenor Square, W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I thank you very much for letting me see these beautiful documents, for beautiful they are to my mind. And I only trust that you will be able to carry through the Queen's imitation of your work, notwithstanding provoking delays & some indifference. I hope too that you will be able to get away soon, for you have indeed had a harassing year. But you have accomplished much -

Miss Jennings seems likely to be a great help to me. I like her so much. Thank you a thousand times. But you will answer what I asked -

I too shall be going out of London shortly.

Let me thank you too once more for what I am always thanking you for in my heart among your innumerable benefits - the beautiful Flowering plants. May God's choicest blessings be yours -

ever yours sincerely & gratefully
Florence Nightingale
It was really distressing not to get the post of Warden for Mr. Craven. It would have simplified & made easy so many things - And the loss of it endangers our possession both of Mr. & Mrs. Craven, I fear??

But we can only thank God that we have you.

610 RAT 1/38 signed letter, 2ff, pencil, typed copy f111

Aug 14/89

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

How can I thank you for your generous kindness? I feel myself preying upon you - I do not like to prey - And you will not let me decline.

My deepest gratitude is yours- Not only for Miss Jennings who seems a most capable person- but for all that you are doing every day for the Nursing cause. And also for the beautiful flowering plants, which I have now stopped, as I am going away so soon- I feel compunction as I well may, as well as gratitude, for your continued kindness in this delightful item.

May all your goodness & wise schemes prosper, & the blessings you give to others return tenfold upon yourself, 'full
'measure, pressed down' -
is the fervent wish of
yours ever gratefully
Florence Nightingale

610 RAT 1/39 signed letter, 2ff, pen

10, South Street, (printed address:)  
Grosvenor Square, W.
Dear Mr. Rathbone
  How can I ever delay an
hour answering your great
kindness? But I never delay
a minute saying & wishing
God speed to all your good
works.
  Yes, please; be so good as
to send me "the papers showing"
your "progress so far, after the
"first Meeting of the Council
"of the Institution on Monday
"Tuesday": as you kindly propose
I am ashamed to tell you in
what a dilapidated condition
I am: my head will not
bear being read to - & my
eyes will not bear to read
to myself - & of course
as age increases, so does
work. But I am ashamed
to say such a thing to
yourself busy with the good
works, alike public & private,
which God so blesses-
   I hope to answer your
further question, tho' very
imperfectly; in a day or
two.
   I am so sorry for the
death of that "good young
fellow"-
I know not how to thank you for the beautiful flowering plants which your goodness still anew supplies me with. Your "charity never faileth"
With shame & sorrow I confess that I have been able to do so little for you, while you do everything for us.

ever yours gratefully
F. Nightingale

22/2/90

610 RAT 1/40 signed letter, 3ff, pen & pencil typed copy ff113-14

{top left corner; on an angle: Private [13:818]}

"Addition to pamphlet proposed"
10, South Street, April 28/90
Grosvenor Square. W. {printed address:}

Dear Mr. Rathbone
I have two letters of yours, one of April 19, /containing Proof, one received on Saturday night to thank you for. I am very glad of Macmillan's proposal, for your sake & that of the work.
I hope to send you the Proof of my "Introduction" revised by to night or to morrow morning early.
You will not fag too much, I trust, the next few months.
In the meantime, as you were kind enough to send me a copy of the Maternity "Addition to Pamphlet proposed"
& ask me to criticize it, may I say that the feeling I have about it is: that the writer ignores that Lying-in Institutions do NOT train in Maternity practice. - that there is much in the "Addition" that is good, without any reference in it to the absence of the proper means of instruction, which is touched upon but only in a few sentences in my Introduction.
Is there no danger that more harm than good will be done by the Addition if going forth in its present shape?
I may possibly add a few words (confidential) to these when I send my revised Proof.
But I have too many delays to apologize for to delay these few lines, asked for by your kindness. Success to all your work—
I am afraid you have had tiresome doings in Ireland. Your beautiful flowering plants are the light of my room — ever gratefully yours
F. Nightingale
Confidentially to you I will mention, (tho' I do not find much to add to my yesterday's note), that, in getting Probationers of our own into what are called the best of the Lying-in Training Hospitals, I have done what this "Addition" suggests; p. 4, viz. written "Stating the points of training", they should "pay special attention to". And most kindly were they attended to.

At the same time, as we Nurses have a common language & a common feeling (or ought to have it,) they expressly told me, that afterwards they

[2 folios added April 2004 at Liverpool]
could not make their
Midwives in training do it
in Hospital: much less in
the Lying-in Patient’s OWN
HOME, after training.
   I feel myself but too sadly
justified in saying that the
writer ignores that Lying-in
Institutions do not train in
Maternity practice. [end]

P. 6 “Three midwifery months” the
writer thinks “devoted to
“Midwifery alone” makes
a trained Midwife!!

The only “abnormal” case
a 3 month’s Trained Midwife
at one of the very best
Lying-in Institutions, certified
& going abroad where
there was no Doctor within
miles & miles, was in the
Obstetric Ward of a General
London Hospital. [pencil] How
can it be in many cases
otherwise?

610 RAT 1/41 signed letter, 2ff, pencil typed copy f115

March/99
   10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
      PARK LANE. W.
Dear Mr. Rathbone [13:574-75]
   It seems to me that
I have not written to
you for a long while
-you, our greatest
benefactor- How many
owe their lives to you!
How many bless the
day that gave you
to the world!
   Some indeed are
falling around us  
now "Like leaves in  
"wintry weather"-  
But, thank God,  
nothing can be less like  
leaves. Every one is  
taken up by God for  
a splendid future of  
work in His Service.  
We have lost Sir  
Douglas Galton. He  
is a great loss. But  
there were none  
like you- And God  
has given you to us  
for eighty years-  
And pray God, He  
may give us you  
yet for years.  
I was so sorry not  
to be able to see you  
when you were so  
good as to call  
when you were last  
in London-  
ever yours gratefully  
Florence Nightingale  
Thank you again &  
again for the  
beautiful flowering  
plants that come  
from you every week  
F.N.  

typed copy 26 March 1900 f116
3 August 1864

I suppose one will get over the prison-like feeling of having to obtain leave for every going out of the building and having a register kept of the hours of one’s departure and return. How childish it seems to mind this....Have I not again and again asked myself, should I ever be able to meet the dreariness, the loneliness, the difficulties, the jealousies, the restraints, the disappointments, the isolation. In my own strength—no never. Yet when I look back and see how God has helped me, how in the darkest moment, something has come sent by a most loving Father, a little word, a letter, flowers, a something which has cheered me and told me not only of the human love but of that bountiful, heavenly Friend who knew this weak child’s need and answered....May no fear of man hinder me in His work.

I am so glad I have been to the workhouse. In every way I can now more realize my future position and the difficulties of it. But I have as never before a kind of consciousness of power to bring a little sunshine to those poor creatures, as if I could, with God’s blessing, be an instrument of making a little ray of hope and comfort sometimes enter....

10, SOUTH STREET, PARK LANE. W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

It seems to me that I have not written to you for a long while—
you, our greatest benefactor—How many owe their lives to you?
How many bless the day that gave you to the world?
Some indeed are falling around us

now "Like leaves in "wintry weather"—
But, thank God, nothing can be less like leaves. Every one is taken up by God for a splendid future of work in His Service.

We have lost Sir Douglas Galton. He
is a great loss. But
there were none
like you— And God
has given you to us
for eighty years—
And pray God, He
may give us you
yet for years.
I was so sorry not
to be able to see you
when you were so
good as to call
when you were last
in London—
ever yours gratefully
Florence Nightingale
Thank you again &
again for the
beautiful flowering
plants that come
from you every week
F.N.

April 30/1900
10, SOUTH STREET, (printed address:)
   PARK LANE. W.
Dear Mr. Rathbone
It is quite impossible
for me to thank you
enough for the paper
--no, not if I were to
write it a hundred
thousand times— you
have been so kind as
to send me— of which
I have read every
word— or rather had
every word read to me
that pertained to our
subject- & shall have
it all read over again
to me to-morrow--
It is admirable &
surpassing in interest.
    I shall write again
to-morrow, if I may
Who shall say that
our times are not as
exciting & full of
interest as the best
times of the Republic
of Rome.
    ever yours
      Florence Nightingale
W. Rathbone Esq

610 RAT 1/43 signed fragment of letter, 1f, pen

{printed address, upside down, lower left corner:}
10, SOUTH STREET,
    PARK LANE. W.
{no date. from script, I'd say not later than early to mid 1880s}
3
I trust to see you soon
  some afternoon. As you
so kindly offer it. I am
rather full this week, &
you I dare say are fuller.
  Your beautiful flower-
plants have resumed
their benevolent course.
    Pray believe me
  ever gratefully yours
      F. Nightingale
June 13th
about organising District nursing for the sick poor in London: as you have done in Liverpool:
Is there any advantage in a Central Society beyond a certain power of getting money--
in so vast a place as London?
Is there any administrative advantage?
& are there not very serious objections--
which are avoided by local organisation

Is it not “putting the cart before the horse”? Presenting to the public a map of the work
be done “yes: most useful: if as a sermon
as it were: but not as a plan to be worked out. Would not that be doing the very
reverse of what you so wisely did at Liverpool? At such a place as Liverpool
the advantage is: that there is an “esprit de corps” or rather “de ville”: the leading
men know each other; or perhaps rather
one man can lead; the place is not too large
for a general superintendence.

35 South St.
Park Lane W.
March 7/74

My dear Miss Merryweather
I hope that my answer
about Mrs. Rhodes told
what was wanted.
Now I am venturing to
trouble you again:
We are asked to send a
Canadian lady, whom
we have had with us
since last spring, to Canada
with 4 Trained Nurses (who
probably will be ladies)
to undertake a Hospital &
Training School for Nurses.
We are obliged to answer immediately about Salaries, which we are desired to propose.
Could you be so very good as to tell me what the salaries were of
Lady Supt= Head Nurses
Whom Mr. Rathbone sent to New York & Albany-
& what the other money-stipulations?

I am so afraid that I am giving you unnecessary trouble by this:
for I seem to think that one at least of these Nursing parties went not from you but from the Workhouse Hospital.
If so, would you be so very kind as to pass on this note to Mr. Rathbone, or Mr. Cropper, or the Lady Supt= of the Workhouse Hospital: & ask the proper authority to be so good as to answer my troublesome question?
With many apologies & in great haste pray believe me dear Miss Merryweather yours sincerely & gratefully Florence Nightingale
Dear Miss Nightingale,

I am very sorry to have missed you but it is not detailed information that I want but your judgment, and suggestions, on anything I might write either to my friend to whom I alluded in my letter of Saturday or to the duke of Westminster, who, I now fine, is one of the Trustees and who, I am rather surprised, did not mention the matter to me-

I am rather inclined to give my friend some memorandum and also to write more fully perhaps to the Duke of Westminster.

(2)
I fancy they will want it to be some central Institution, probably under charter of Incorporation for promoting form a centre Nursing the Poor in different parts of the country-

Now I cannot but think that they could not do better than absorb and carry out the original idea of the Metropolitan and National Nursing Association. The work done by that

(3)
Association is thoroughly good of its kind; and it is spreading steadily and holding its ground wherever it spreads. The cause of that success I believe to be the high ideal of nursing and of the qualifications required by nurses for the Poor with which the Association set out
FN:
Has the success of the M. & N. Assocn been uniform? has it always held its ground?
E.g. it failed at Greenwich & Portsmouth (so far)-
Nevertheless the principles of its action proved to be sound by experience and it Would it not be a great mistake to attempt to establish any new organisation for the purpose of promoting Nursing among the poor & not to make use of the Association with such modifications as may be found expedient
The cases where it has not been successful have been, it is believed, owing to the want of efficient Nurses to act as Pioneers-Nurses having some of the qualifications requisite for Superintendence, viz.

- tact & discretion in dealing with the Doctors & supporters
  & the Nurses under them
- business habits
- & of course & essentially thoroughness in Nursing so as to keep up the standard*
Must not a high standard grow up by the influence of individuals whom alas! We scarcely know how to attract?
[pencil] * These qualifications will not be acquired by being assistant supts in a Hospital-will they?-
[pen resumes same page]
P. (4)
Is a larger house required at present for the M. & N. Assn? Was not one mistake to begin with, the attempt to do too much at first-to hold out prospects which could not be carried out
(1) for want of trained & qualified Nurses
(2) for want of local support from the Public.
The first want exists in full force so far as District Nursing is concerned.
The second has outrun the supply of trained Nurses, & especially of Superintendents or Pioneer Nurses. But temporary aid is required in starting the District nursing locally.
WR: (4)
It seems to me that possibly the best suggestion would be a “Queen’s College for Nursing Incorporated by Royal Charter”, building, or still better, purchasing, in London a larger house than we have to serve as a Central Home and for other purposes of the institution.

FN: It is most important to obtain a grant of money for District Nursing. But one hardly sees how “incorporating” the Central Home (whether a good house is “built” or “purchased”) by “Royal Charter”, & calling it a “Queen’s College” will increase the number of good candidates, or improve the quality of bad, so making it a real “Central” Training School & supply for the whole kingdom. What really prevents its growth is a want of suitable candidates, (besides want of money) Might not the quality of these still further deteriorate with the éclat of a Royal Charter?
Should we ever forget that the moral training of Nurses—unlike that of "Queen’s College" in general—especially of Nurses who lead so independent a life as that among the poor—is of all things the most important—the keeping up a high ideal of their being moral (missionary) Nurses among the poor homes & families as well as among the poor Patients.

Will the R. Charter provide for this in any way?

The great peculiarity of these trained Nurses is that of substituting, for alms-giving, the putting the home in good healthy order—the teaching the family how to keep it in such good order—how to help nurse/nursing the home: the family/—the knowing how to reach sanitary authorities to do what individuals cannot do for themselves [& if help & comforts & necessaries are really wanting the going to local charities for them] but above all the de-pauperizing of the family by teaching them self help & healthy ways & habits—besides of course the very best-skilled Sick Nursing at the poor people’s own homes.

[Has this deteriorated?
Have the Supts kept up the standard?]
How are these things to be maintained or developed by the R Charter or Queen’s College?

WR: (5)
Training from that institution as a centre first in London Hospitals for at least a year, and, afterwards, for three months, six months, a year, or more from the College in District nursing taking nothing but ladies: because, not only do ladies do District Nursing in an exceptionally good manner, but, trained as they would thus be, they would naturally spread themselves over the country as superintendents of nursing in local hospitals and among the Poor throughout the Kingdom.

[FN pencil:] Would you not suggest merely to assist the objects of the M & N N Assn in providing Nurses for the poor at their own Homes?
I consider (and of this I think we have some experience now) that it is a very valuable addition for Hospital Superintendents to the training of a London Hospital to go (under the Metropolitan and National Nursing Association) in the Homes of the Poor to nurse with less perfect appliances.

Again I think it would be very valuable if the Queen’s College maintained in two or more hospitals, of which at least one should be a Workhouse Hospital, Assistant Superintendents each for 2 years as I have done, in order to train them to take the position of Superintendents when wanted; and I should choose our very best lady nurses for this work and insist upon the most thorough training and superior qualifications as the best mode of keeping up the standard of Nursing throughout the Kingdom from the queen’s College as the centre.

Is it not extraordinarily difficult to adjudge pensions for “exceptionally superior services”? And does it not lead to Nurses clamouring for War Service, & seeking éclat? [The St Katharine’s Pensions have apparently done no good & some harm. do War Medals. The St. K.’s scheme has been altogether futile so far as promoting good Nursing—that is practically “pensions for superior services.” And it has done harm by its invidious application] Yet might not the money be turned to account in connection with pensions? be a nucleus for a large scheme, receiving the contributions of Nurses themselves? But this is a different idea from that already taken up-viz. Nursing the poor. As a practical objection would not the expence be too great of granting pensions, in addition to the difficulty of selecting, for “superior services”? 
WR: (8) [FN comment above is opposite this]
I think it would be well also that they should appropriate a certain small portion of income for pensions for long, devoted, and exceptionally superior services in nursing.

These were the general ideas which occurred to me; and I have written them on one side only of the sheets of folio paper, leaving also space at the bottoms of each page written on, in order that you may, with less trouble, put your notes on the other side or at the foot, with any suggestions and remarks you may have to make—

Do not hesitate to condemn the whole or any part of these ideas if you think them injudicious. It seems to me on this, or some similar plan, the Queen’s College of Nursing might be the Mother House of District Nursing as your School at St Thomas’s is of Hospital Nursing. Pray excuse my thus troubling you

Of course the Queen’s money would not do all this but our Insts & their money a “Royal Scheme” like this would draw—ought to do this.

Yr ffully
W. Rathbone

FN: We cordially agree with Mr Rathbone that the money would be well bestowed in promoting the objects of the M. & N. N. Assocn especially in aiding to supply its defects
P.T.O.

No doubt objections will be made to this scheme (first part) on the ground that it puts too much into the hands of the M. & N. N. Assoc & does not mark the fund in its application as coming distinctly from the Jubilee Fund. [end 13:787]

[also a doc Sir Rutherford Alcock. Came Oct 20/87]
typed not in yet:
To the Memory

of

Agnes E. Jones

daughter of Colonel Jones of Fahan &c

who was the first to found Trained Nursing in Workhouses

She died at her post in Liverpool Workhouse on Feb 19 (?) 1868

age 34 (?)

While nursing the sick, she fought the good fight against sin & wretchedness

with the prayer that when the Master came

He might be able to say

“She hath done what she could”-

This monument, the type of her hope to come, is erected by

William Rathbone

3/11 is almost the same:

5 attempts

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of

Agnes E. Jones

daughter of Colonel Jones of Fahan &c

the first to found Trained Nursing in Workhouses

She died at her post in Liverpool Workhouse on Feb 19 (?) 1868

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While nursing the sick, she fought the good fight, praying that when the Master came

He might be able to say

“She hath done what she could”-

This monument, the type of her hope to come, is erected by

W.R.
Dear Mr. Rathbone

I have received Mr. Worthington’s plans & report, will carefully examine them & write to you in a day or two.

At present, as I see from your note that you are to have your conversation with Miss Freeman on Saturday or Sunday, I write merely about that:—the Workhouse Nursing.

[Nothing will induce Mrs. Wardroper to give her leave to your letting Miss Freeman know that I have sent you Miss Freeman’s letter to Mrs. Wardroper. And I think Mrs. Wardroper is right. The same objection applies to myself. But I don’t see that it is necessary for you to do so in order to open the Conversation. Miss Freeman represents herself as bursting to speak to you. She is a perfectly straightforward & outspoken person—And, more than all, as the original idea}
of organizing a Workhouse Infirmary
Nursing constitution was entirely your
own – & the working it out much
more your own than ours, I think
it would be simply prejudicial to the
work if foreign oars, like Mrs.
Wardroper’s & mine, were now to
appear to be thrust in, because Miss
Freeman & the Workhouse authorities
seem now not to be carrying out
your original idea.]

What strikes me as the way in which
things are tending is this: –
and I feel how very necessary it is
to proceed with caution:-

Miss Freeman says that a Workhouse Hospital or
Infirmary is an entirely different in its
organization to a General Hospital or Infirmary-
mainly, according to her, from its
dependence upon Workhouse Officers,-
from these Workhouse Officers doing

the work- from the Sick part of the
Workhouse being merely an integral part,
or a dependency of the Workhouse.

Now this is the very thing which
it was sought to prevent-to entirely
alter.

[Miss Freeman draws among other
conclusions, this: - that an
Assistant Supt= is unnecessary.
Her reasoning really leads much
more to the conclusion that a
Superintendent- is unnecessary –
indeed, if what she says were
logically carried out, a Supt- would
be not only unnecessary but
impossible - for the interference
from the Workhouse side would
be such that her situation would
become impracticable- & all
your benevolent scheme would
fall to the ground.]
It is from this point of view that matters have to be considered - And I do not see at all that it is a matter which Mrs. Wardroper or I are competent to decide; it is a matter solely for you. All we can do is to offer suggestions & experience - if asked.

You must determine whether your Workhouse Hospital is to be organized on the plan of the best Civil Hospitals, mutatis mutandis, - or whether the old Workhouse idea, which you have sacrificed so much to convert into a totally different one, is to be reverted to under an improved form & a better Governor.

In the latter case, there is certainly an advantage in having no Supt- of Nurses, but only a Matron.

Things are marching very quickly in London now. The largest parishes are all building /or planning Infirmaries in the country- on the best Pavilion principles- and the worst of them,
(So far as at present appears,) will have a building on such healthy principles as that no London Hospital, except new St. Thomas’, can compare with it. In all such the administration, totally separated from the Workhouse administration, is to be reformed in according to the best principles—There is to be a Steward’s Department, a Medical Department, a Nursing Department, directly responsible to the Head or Governing Committee. To have Nurses responsible to a Matron, to a Supt= of Nurses, to a Governor, all at once, appears to be subversive of all discipline.

Whenever you separate your Hospital from the Workhouse something of the same kind will have to be done. If the administration is to be improved, it must be made special—i.e. special as regards no interference from the Workhouse,
which has really nothing to do with the Hospital-
Special as regards the Nurse, who is
Now placed under 3 heads in place
of one - [Under the present Regulations
really efficient Hospital Nursing appears impracticable i.e. the interference
will be such that all permanent independent organization, so it seems, will be impracticable-]
Under so very able & excellent a man as the present Governor, things may appear to, may really work very well- better far than they did under dear Agnes & the old Governor. But the Hospital is not a Hospital- it is merely a branch of a very ably conducted Workhouse.

I come now to the last, tho’ by no means the least, error which they appear on the brink of committing-
And this is: - the total ignoring of what was one of the main objects

of your original scheme, viz. The founding a School for sending out Nursing Staffs to other Workhouses. How a Staff is to be sent out without a Supt= at its head we cannot conceive. This which was the worst feature of Workhouse Nursing, viz. the having one or two or three paid Nurses, without any head or organization of their own to support & govern them, is now not even thought of, not even in London- in all the reformed schemes - actual or prospective.

I look upon the decision that Miss Freeman presses for as to an Assistant Supt= being necessary or not, tho’ important, as one of quite minor importance to the fundamental question:-- is the Hospital administration to be a dependency of the Workhouse or not?--
I think I had perhaps better send you a letter I have received this morning from Miss Freeman, in order that you may judge whether I judge the situation rightly or not. I can only judge from a distance. Enquiry on the spot is necessary. I alas enclose the Regulations she encloses to me—Please look, e.g. At para: 10, page 15. I shall not answer Miss Freeman till after your interview with her & nor till after your opinion has been received by me. For indeed it is useless—

Please not to let her know that you have seen any of her letters. Indeed, believe me, it is much better that the verdict should come from you alone, whichever way it is. Were it to come as the result of an /assumed appeal, real or apparent, from Mrs. Wardroper or me, it would be very disastrous. ever yours sincerely,

Florence Nightingale

{printed address, upside down:} 35 South Street, Park Lane, W. London

Any information that I have about what London Workhouses are going to do shall be at your service—But this too it is better to keep private at present— as one Vestry has protested against its own Bd. Of Guardians, the best in {written up right margin:} London, already. F.N.
Dear Mr. Rathbone,

I will only just say now, in answer to your kind note, that I doubt the possibility of the Highgate Infirmary taking in "20 Nurses as Probationers" at present, & that I should be very sorry for Miss Torrance who, after all, has been there but 18 months, & who has only completed her Nursing Staff & her full number of Patients in October last, (when the Infirmary first passed under the "Central London") being burthened with such an additional number at once. We consented last month to try a tiny Training - School for Workhouse Nurses under her - only 6 - (there was no more accommodation but for 6) - we paying certain expenses - the "Board" the rest. Do not think I am trying to be discouraging - quite the reverse. Mr. Wyatt is the very best person in the whole world for you to discuss it with. And he appreciates Miss
Torrance, as she deserves. But let me write to you again.
I have not a moment now to think of your proposal-
I have only just received your note-
Let me accept your kind proposal “not to send in the suggestion” till we have had time to consider & make “suggestions.”
You cannot think how strong is my love & admiration for Miss Torrance - who is almost a second Agnes Jones-

Overworked already, she must not be hurried.
But it is not from her that any objection to undertaking more training will come.
With your plan I have of course the warmest sympathy
In great haste
ever yours sincerely
Florence Nightingale
Private

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I think that, in my hurry of yesterday, I may have led you to believe that the “Central London Sick Asylum District” had already consented to bear their share of the expenses of training a very small number of Workhouse Nurses (for London Workhouses) at the Highgate Infy, under Miss Torrance.

This is not the case - All that has yet passed is: that we have proposed terms to assist in maintaining 6 Probationers which Mr. Wyatt pronounces reasonable.

But there are difficulties -

Mr. Wyatt

88 Regent’s Park Road N.W.
Is the person to discuss best the whole matter with you - [He was the excellent Chairman of the St. Pancras Board.]

This is only a P. S. to my yesterday’s note - not an answer to you -

ever yours faithfully
F. Nightingale
Private

Workhouse Nurse=Training

As to establishing a Govt. Training Sch: for Workh: Nurses

35 South Street, May 30/71
Park Lane, {printed address:}

W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I am glad indeed that you have seen Mr. Wyatt, & that he will put down something in black & white about his views.

Of course // I look upon the subject question as a most important one, involving the whole future of Pauper Sick welfare: -- whether you can induce the P. L. Board to take up the subject of Nurse=training.

2 It is one I constantly receive letters upon from Union Medical Officers, entire strangers to me shewing that they are awakening, just as much as Hospital Doctors & Military Doctors, to the one essential condition of curing their sick - viz. having skilled Nurses.]]

I have just received one, with a Report, from the Medical Officer of a large Union Workhouse

I return you Mr. Cropper's & Mr. Hagger's letters, both able & suggestive.

And I will just dot [jot?] down a few notes now--from the Nurse=training side, not from the P. L. side on these letters -- not at all as being final Notes - which I reserve to myself yet but merely as comments on these letters.
(1). As to the advantage of Govt= doing it at all.

[[The example would as coming from authority do good. Recommendations from the P. L. Board to employ trained Nurses or to raise salaries with a view to obtaining trained Nurses would of course come with more effect.

The position & status of the Nurses socially might be improved, as Mr. Hagger says, by the indirect character of importance acquired by connection with the Govt=

Means might be obtained for building accommodation for Probationers & for improving the salary & therefore qualifications of Matron (Supt=) &Doctor.]]

Disadvantages

{note vertically in left margin: {illeg. Mrs? to leave latitude}

Difficulty of altering all Govt= regulations to meet changes of circumstance & times - alterations which wd. be likely to be frequent in a new system-

Dependence for success on the matron-- & incompetency of any Governt= Departmt= as a Court of Appeal from her - especially with regard to dismissals & to some extent admissions.

(2.) As to Liverpool Workho: Infirmary

Does it afford proper means of training? - As to Highgate -

May not the N. Fund do more easily at first what is required?

(3.) Assuming that it is desirable to apply to the P. L. Board, then I think our experience shews that

a. Boards of Guardians will not pay for the training

b. that the Probationers must NOT be selected by the Boards of Guardians, but solely by the Principal of the Training School

c. that objections are not as a rule made by Employers to this course,-- they being ready to appoint Nurses who are recommended to them
d. As to the expence: -
Govt= ought to provide additional accommodation
for & maintain & pay as many Probationers
as cannot be usefully employed in the
actual work of the wards -
e.g. at Highgate there are about
20 Nurses &
20 Assistant Nurses.
Probably it would be worth while for the
Board to be at the expence of the keep of
say 6 to 8 supernumeraries for their own
purposes- (according in fact to the arrangement
we proposed to them & to that wh. Mr. Cropper
mentions as in force at Liverpool)
If the No= of Pupils is to be increased, the whole
expence of the additional number would fall
on the Govt=, as the whole does on us at St. Thomas'.
[Undoubtedly at St. Thomas' the number
of the Hospital staff is diminished
in consequence of the use they make
of our Probationers -- & hence their
willingness to build Quarters for us.]

At present I doubt whether Highgate is
 capable of training "20 Probationers" having
regard to the No= of Patients in the Wards-
Certainly it is not, having regard to the
capabilities of the Staff.
[We agreed that 6 was quite enough for
Miss Torrance to begin with- And there
is every reason to adhere to this, which
was /determined not only by that being the extent of
available accommodation.]
There are certain points on which we must
consult Miss Torrance farther before expressing
any opinion - especially as to how far
the duties of "Ward Assistants" (at Highgate)
are compatible with the position of Probationer
learning to become a full-blown Nurse.
[Men, especially Poor Law men, often think
you have nothing to do but to promote
the best of your Assistant Nurses -
which is much as if you were to choose
your butler among your stable-boys -
or your housekeeper among your kitchen
maids]
The "Assistants" at Highgate do scrubbing & cleaning & fetching to a considerable extent, I believe.

[Our Probationers do not at St. Thomas'.]

If they do not, or if this work can be made not incompatible with learning the duties of Nurse, the "Ward Assistants" might be treated as Probationers (or a portion of them) -- & by arrangement the numbers available for drafting off be largely increased...

It wd. not answer to the Training Institution to allow this, except on receiving a quid pro quo, such as aid in wages, &c.

[Miss Torrance has already promoted one or two "Ward Assistants" - But it scarcely follows that, as a system, it would be right to treat all, or many, of this class as Probationers. But we must have farther information.]
Miss N opinion is that the object of the Schools should be limited to supplying those larger Infirmaries which require a complete Staff, (Supt= & Nurses.) This is quite enough for the Schools to undertake.

The smaller Infirmaries which are nursed by only one, two, three or four Nurses will gradually be supplied by women who have acquired their training & longer experience in the larger Workhouses - & who wish for "a change".

[Many women prefer a smaller Hospital & the greater importance in some cases which their position in it gives them. And the smaller Infirmaries can afford to give & do I believe often give higher wages. Women so placed are subject to but little supervision & ought to be of more standing & experience than Probationers who have had a year or even two years' training as assistant Nurses - To send out the latter, except as part of a Staff under a competent head, is simply throwing away the cost incurred by the school-

P. S. No doubt, so far as expense is the difficulty with Bds of Guardians, this is in favour of a Govt= plan-

No definite conclusions or direct answer are given here- I reserve these - as you see.
Small notes on Mr. Hagger's & Mr. Cropper's notes

1. There is no occasion to have a "Staff of Nurses ready at any time". That is impossible. Hospitals are not taken ill like private Patients at a moment's notice. They must give a year's notice that they want a Staff of Nurses - as they do to us.

2. Boards of Guardians must give up practically "right of selection" - tho' not in name - Or the whole thing will fail - But we do not find them unwilling.

3. Mr. Cropper is perfectly right in saying that no Nurses could "take charge without a really "good Supt=".
   But they must look to training Supts= as well

4. I cannot think that Workhouses which require only one or at most 2 Supg= Nurses should ever take Probationers of only one or even 2 years' training -
   Just the persons who have least experience are thereby placed where they have least supervision & most responsibility.
This will never succeed, as a general rule -
Persons of tried experience & capacity from
in a Workhouse nursed by trained Staff under a trained
Supt= -- & who deserve promotion -- should be
the persons selected for these (single) posts.

[The case is so different from that of training
School Masters & Mistresses -
These are to go out alone -
But ONE can undertake a School. but
not an Infirmary, unless she has proved
capacity -
In the school, children only are undertaken
& generally only day=schooling -
In the Infirmary, adult men & women
Patients come under the Supg= Nurse for
all day & night - She the only person to maintain
current discipline.
Masters & mistresses are generally the
pets of the clergyman /& his wife= probably also of
the Parish "Lady" & daughters - & have
seldom to contend with a hostile or
indifferent or conceited & domineering or
ignorant Board -
All these things are reversed in the
case of the Supg= Nurse - solitary &
without the advantages probably of
position & education as she is.
5. I feel entirely with Messrs Cropper & Hagger that Boards of Guardians will, in general, prefer "advertising"-
   And, if they "advertise", they always prefer the Nurse not above the "average"-

6. [[Practically, the difficulty will be immense of letting Boards of Guardians send their own women to be trained at the P.L.'s cost
   a. Women so chosen will seldom or never be "above the average"-
   b. They will generally be persons whom Boards of Guardians wish to make a "provision" for - e.g. their own widows.
   c. There will be a constant well of dissatisfaction boiling up against the unfortunate Training Matron for dismissing (for incompetency or worse) such Probationers -
      And the P. L. Board has no Department the least competent to deal, as a Court of Appeal, with such cases -
      [Unless we steadily upheld our Training Matrons in such matters, they would be 'nowhere'].]]

You must not take the Liverpool Board as a criterion- They are gentlemen-.
So are the Highgate Board - ("Central London Asylum" Bd=)
These are the exceptions- not the rule - Both these Boards are {in printing not writing:} reformers -
Especially I should deplore receiving Nurses already appointed in Workhouse Infirmaries "to give them a training"—Such undertakings abound in almost insuperable difficulties—You will understand this. [Would that "the fundamental qualification "looked for in a candidate for a" Nurse’s "office" were that she shd- have been trained", I say with Mr. Hagger Whose letter is very important.]

Dear Mr. Rathbone
I think I had better submit these unsatisfactory jottings to you just as they are reserving some more considered conclusions both from Mr. H. Bonham Carter & from me—Yrs ever gratefully & sincerely F Nightingale

Your kind note received about Agnes Jones I will answer it.

6/5 signed letter, 7 ff, pen [6:458-60]

{top left corner; diagonally:) Private
Govt= School for
Workh= Hosp= Nurses
35 South Street, June 15/71
Park Lane, {printed address:}
W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone
I am very sorry to have been so long in answering finally yours on this subject—the more so as I am afraid you will think my answer when it comes little satisfactory.
I have consulted with upon our possibilities at the Highgate Infy= & with our Secretary, Mr. H. Bonham Carter — & taken the utmost pains to arrive at a right conclusion.
You kindly tell me "not to trouble" myself "to comment." And indeed I have no time or strength for argument (which, besides, never convines any one —) I will therefore ask you to have the goodness to take for granted that I have used every means to ascertain our means, together with the experience & convictions of those who must work the plan, if at all.
You know me well enough & my intense anxiety for the success of your Nurse-training
schemes – & especially for the extension of
Trained Nursing in the Workhouse Hospitals
of the large towns of England – & throughout
the country – – – to know that I should
put no spoke in the wheel of your sending
your letter to Mr. Stansfeld– even if I
could. But this is: -- provided you
do not quote me as the authority for your
plan–
I should prefer that you should refer only
to my printed & published paper in the small
Blue Book /"Report on Cubic Space of Metropolitan Workhouses". 1867.
(paper by F.N. on "providing, training & organizing Nurses for Sick poor"
in it p. 64)
(which was of course written "by order")
if you refer to me at all as evidence
of my views–
I am sure that you will understand this –
if it were only for the following reason:--
if when your letter is gone in, the P.L.B.
apply for our opinion,- on having applied
to the Highgate Board, Sir S. Waterlow or Mr.
Wyatt applies for our opinion,- we can only
repeat the conclusions we have arrived
at- And we shall APPEAR to be
opposing your first move. Now there is
scarcely anything which could now happen
in my painful life that would give me
more pain than this would do.
I am afraid that I must therefore beg you to strike out
the passages in your Draft which seem
to give the impress of my being the "backer"
of the letter- [They are crossed thoro' in pencil-]
That at p. 11 does not moreover convey the
meaning I intended to convey. And that at
p. 12 implies what is not exactly the fact,
as far as we are concerned- [I think I
mentioned to you what we are doing ourselves
at Highgate, & that we were satisfied
that it would be unwise to attempt any thing
on a larger scale at first.
Probably you will say (with truth) that any
action of the P. L. B. would hardly be
matured for another year - but then
the words "letting slip" & "which now exists"
become scarcely of literal accuracy do they?]

At p. 2, if you wish to retain the quotation from
me, which I should prefer omitted, the word
"constantly" must at all events be left out.
Some of these letters are "Confidential" - [I think I marked mine to you as "Private".] And I could not undertake either to put names or letters into the P.L.B.'s hands, if called for--except one or two printed ones - still less to be the correspondent between the P.L.B. & Union Medl= Officers-

The Para:, crossed thro', top of P. 9, is not exactly, either correct. [Not the "Nurses", but the "Ward Assistants" do "part of the scrubbing"-] - And when I mentioned this to you, I did not mean it to be brought before the P.L.B.

Last Para:- bottom of page 10, is contrary to all our experience which strengthens every year.
i.e. selection & dismissal must rest virtually with the female chief, whatever she is called. And the Local Committee, whatever it is called, must, in these matters, be only the "backer" of the female chief, if she is worthy of her post at all.

[2]

{printed address:} 35 South Street,
Park Lane,
W.

The Supt. must, of course, herself be responsible to the constituted Hospital authorities - But no good ever came of the constituted authorities placing themselves in the office which they have sanctioned or appointed her to fill. It is fatal to discipline among the Nurses-
II. Query - as far as London is concerned? -- --

is there not danger of the plan failing under
Government unless as part of a larger scheme
under a Superintendt= Genl=, as "suggested" (in the Blue Book paper)

It might go on for a time, e.g. so long at Highgate
as Miss Torrance was there with Mr. Wyatt to back her

But what does Mr. Wyatt, even Sir S. Waterlow, say
as to their Board?-- that they neither know nor
care anything about the Nursing-- Hence the
difficulty anticipated to our small scheme.

Supposing Miss Torrance fall, when as Agnes
Jones did, where will they find any one else
at present? - The time may come when there
will be a larger number of competent women,
but so long as success must depend upon one or two
persons, failure is imminent- And failure
would only throw back the general progress of
improvement which exists.

This is not however to discourage you. I would
not discourage you if I could. But I must state
what comes within my own knowledge, as the P. L. B.
might call upon us later to state it-- & we cd= then only repeat the above

III.

If the P. L. B. take the matter up, we
shall be able to discuss with them
how far the plan is feasible as regards
Highgate; & , if at all feasible, be able to
enter into details.

We cannot agree as to these with the
(Lpool) Authorities whose letters you enclose-
And, though details, they embody principles
on which success depends.

IV. May I repeat that I think, if you wish to
quote me, it would be on the whole more to
the point if you simply say in your letter
to Mr. Stansfeld that you presume (or something
to that effect) that Mr. S. had read my "Suggestions"
&c.

I will return your /other letter this evening-
ever yours sincerely
Florence Nightingale
Liverpool Record Office

Liverpool Record Office 6/5a is to Rathbone Whit Sunday 1871 from 80 Regent’s Park Road, from illeg Cottlay? re Goschen, sick, nurses

Liverpool Record Office 6/6 incomplete letter, pencil 3ff [perhaps cont’d letter of 6/7 although same date as 6/7

{top left corner; diagonally:) Private
& Confidential

1
{Mr. Hagger } W. Rathbone Esq M.P.
{Mr. Cropper} For your own eye alone

June 16/71 7. a.m.

Do these letters appear convincing to you?
{the words "these letters" are the base of an arrow head pointing to the names in curly brackets}

Mr. Hagger x x x

1. does this agree with is former opinion (in which we all concurred) that Guardians prefer advertising – & in doing so always take the woman not above the average?

2. !! argument that "they can put them at once into Office is not the whole question hinged on getting assistance from P. L. B. by having Nurses trained?
He probably means that if they wished to job, they, have the means of doing so by 'putting into office'- but they don't--
they won't job by nominating Probationers'—
Is not the whole experience we have of Guardians in London against thus 'begging the question'?—
[Is not /"ALL" the risk of disgrace & failure" absolutely a nothing?— 1. it is the "risk of inefficiency, of those qualities or want of qualities which are so difficult to define except under the head of "general "unsuitableness" which constitute the real "risk"— not "disgrace"— But 2. I am sorry to say that we have experience (where there was real "disgrace") where the persons who sent the Candidate not only upheld her but got up a most painful "Confidential" & wholly illegitimate enquiry against the Training Matron— actually using "PRIVATE" false accusations against her—
And in this our evidence varies toto caelo from Mr. Hagger's—
The one thing our experience leads us to deprecate is this: — taking women previously appointed to train— It is almost impossible to allege anything short of "disgrace" to cause their appointments to be cancelled— And even with "disgrace", the appointers will often uphold their Candidate against the Training-Matron—
So both fall into 'Condemnation'.
3. x x
Does Mr. Hagger know "what" London "Boards of Guardians" are?—
Would not Mr. Wyatt retort on Mr. Hagger the self-same words— that he has no "intimate knowledge" of them?
-- is it needful for us to give our experience, our "intimate knowledge", when, for the last 6 years, Reports, Parliamentary enquiries, even the daily press, have revealed a state of jobbery & corruption & inefficiency - which no instances I could give would much heighten or worsen? --

Only recall the whole history of St. Pancras' - which, Mr. Wyatt being driven out, is almost as bad now as before - But there are, alas!, other as flagrant instances.

II. Mr. Cropper
!!-"District Nurses"- Do you concur in Mr. C.'s reason - viz. that the inferior ones may be used "as D. Nurses"? - The very best women--ought not they? - ought {illeg.} to be allotted for "District" Nursing when the supervision is & cannot but be of the smallest- A woman who will do very well in a Hospital where proper female authority keeps her in order or in private Nursing where people accustomed to have their own way, keep her in more than order

[2] often does very badly or fails completely "As District Nurse" where there is no one really to look after her -

But then nobody knows it!
"There's the rub" - that there is no "rub"-

{printed address; on side at left:} 35 South Street,
Park Lane,
W.

{printed address; on side at right:} 35 South Street,
Park Lane,
W.
35 South Street, June 16/71
Park Lane, {printed address:}

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I was interrupted about
3 times in every page of my
letter to you yesterday-

Still I thought it better
to send my letter & your Draft
rather than keep you waiting
another day - as the my defect
was in writing a bad letter
not in previous thought &
enquiry-

I joyfully avail myself
of your kind thought for me
in sparing myself "comment"
& argument -
I return your letters - & have put down a few pencil queries for yourself - on matters of fact which I, as a woman, should hardly be justified to women, in not calling your own attention to.

But these are for your own eye alone.

I think-like you-one should always have the 'courage of one's opinions- Still, had I known /that my letter to you, (which I think I marked "Private";) was to be shown or quoted to Vestry officials, or P. L. B. officers, I should have put things, which to you I spoke baldly out, in a very different manner-

I scarcely know that I have anything to add to my yesterday's letter-

[In the small Blue Book, p. 68, (paper by me referred to, yesterday) I have mentioned the "Supt=" at "King's Coll: Hosp:" as a proper person "to undertake Workhouse Nurse=Training". Since then the Nursing has changed hands- And a 'not' wd= better describe the state of the case- [-another melancholy proof, by the way,-were any wanted,- how entirely these schemes depend on the competency of one or two persons at present for success.]

God bless you & speed you in this way - ever yrs sincerely
Florence Nightingale

notes 16 June 1874 re hospitals and workhouses
missing items, see etext

check for 6/8

6/19h is a note by Eliza Crudy with a FN comment on it “what is “taking notice of”? Is she a Consulting Surgeon? And more

6/4 is FN to Rathbone May 30/71
6/4a letter of Cropper to Rathbone, re PLB and contd Wednesday
6/4b copy of letter of J.W. Cropper 22 May 1871 from Dingle Bank in response to his and
6/4c also from Cropper
6/4d 22 May 1871 to Rathbone from Wilkie
6/4e 23 May 1871 Hagger to Rathbone
6/4f 23 May 1871 copy of Hagger to Rathbone presumably

6/32 undated
letter Whit Sunday 1871 from illeg 88 Regent’s Park Road re sick poor

6/33 copy of letter of Thomas Worthington to FN from Manchester, Rathbone has sent him her letter to him of 27th Oct and his reply, re her remarks on pen and ink sketches; results of inspection of Vincennes and Bournemouth conval insts

54 John Dalton St., Manchester Nov 2nd 1868
Dear Madam; detailed discussion, re not passing through wards to day room, and reducing number of beds in each room to not more than 6, the max number suggested in your previous letter; re site. Re superintendence and maintaining proper discipline in the day rooms of first importance, (evidently FN gave detailed advice) re her objection to the baths...”I feel a more than ordinary responsibility in this work and am anxious that it should be so arranged as to meet as completely as possible one of the great deficiencies of our social organization.”

As you kindly took a warm interest in the Chorlton Hospital I shall venture in the course of a day or two to send you a tracing of our wards at the Prestwich Workhouse now nearly completed and which in some respects I think an improvement on Chorlton.

6/34 Florence Lees letter to Rathbone from Verdon House, Blackheath SE July 3rd 1874, to breakfast on Tuesday and meet the gentlemen, re National Nursing Assoc, secretary

6/35 F Lees to Rathbone July 8 1874, not to accept hon sec of the N N Assoc, does not reside in London

6/36 copy of Rathbone letter to Lee dismay at her note
Dear Sir

I was happy to accede to the request conveyed to me by Lord Shaftesbury that the MS to which you refer in your most kind letter of August 22, should be placed at the disposal of the Council. If any value attaches to the written copy, I shall be very glad that it shall remain in the Free Library of Liverpool — a town to which I, of all others, owe the most grateful admiration, as out of her has come, as I have always considered, Sanitary salvation to the Army of the Crimea & to all
England, more or less-
I venture to send
the published copy
of the same M S.
and two others on
the same subject,
hoping that you
will do me the honor
to add them to the
same Free Library.
I regret that my
increasing ill health
has delayed so long
my grateful reply
to your kind letter

And I remain
dear Sir
your obliged & obedt
Florence Nightingale
Wm Preston Esq
Mayor

Liverpool Record Office, paper copy

LRO 353 Sel 17/3 signed letter, 16ff, pen

34 South St
Park Lane
London W
August 28/65

Dear Sir
Before replying to your kind
letter of August 18, I waited till
I should have seen, as you desired,
your reply to Mr. Rathbone.
But I should certainly have
acknowledged your of the 18th before,
if I had not been in considerable
suffering & very much occupied.
Let me first say that I never
would have forwarded Mr. Rathbone’s
letter to you, had I thought it would
have given you one moment’s pain.
I, of all others, who have had to
encounter the same difficulties which
you have, should be about the last
person to do such a thing.
But we are all of us in a state of
G. Carr Esq
anxiety for the success of your great experiment - for upon its success or failure depend greater results than upon any other social reform at present on trial - And perhaps we are fidgetty.

At first I regretted extremely having been the means of forwarding Mr. Rathbone’s letter to you but on consideration I believe it was perhaps better that all those who are so much interested in your work should have heard your own view stated fully & completely, as you have stated it.

Let me also say how truly I rejoice & how heartily I congratulate you that you are able to say (of your experiment) “completely successful so far.” [Scarcely anything on this side the grave could have given me so much pleasure - And I have to thank you for it.]

Will you kindly bear with me while I allude to a few points which have suggested themselves from your letters - more especially as you mention our experience in Civil & Military Hospitals.

[N.B. There is more similarity between a Workhouse and a Military Hospital than at first appears - Each is under a Governor - With two exceptions, recently made for two large General Hospitals, the Military Governor has hitherto been the Commanding Officer of the Station, so that he has had under his charge both sick & well - But, in all instances whatsoever, a Military Hospital, whether in peace or in war,
is under a Commandant, [by whatever name called.

Also, a soldier cannot be turned out of Hospital - and he knows he cannot. In this the Patient more closely resembles the pauper than the inmate of a Civil Hospital. He knows perfectly well that he is there, as it were, upon his own right, & not on charity.

Also, there is a much closer relation between the Nursing Staff of a Military Hospital - (Nurses & Orderlies it consists of -) & your own at the Liverpool Workhouse Infirmary than between the Nursing Staff of a Military and of that of a Civil Hospital.

I might multiply instances.]

-2-

You have so to speak three separate works going on at once: -

1. Nursing under a Superintendent of trained Nurses
2. The training of Probationer Nurses under a Superintendent
3. Training of paupers to act as Nurses, under a Superintendent.

May I try to keep these various objects distinctly in view in dealing with the question?

It is quite certain that, as all of these works are being carried out within the walls of the vast establishment, over which you are placed as Head & for which you are responsible, the Governing authority must rest with you.

This I have always stated, - as in your case, so in that of the Military Hospitals, both in war
and at peace - and always most strongly. Nothing has occurred to alter that opinion. And indeed your authority has not once been called in question.

The only difficulty is one which has constantly occurred elsewhere - and that is, in what manner to allow the Superintendent to exercise the power of superintendence inferred in her name & office, without infringing the Governor’s authority.

The question, in so far as regards your Workhouse experiment in Liverpool, is really not the least of those important questions which you have to solve. It is a question which will raise itself in every workhouse before long - (though we shall have few or no Governors like yourself - & few Superintendents like Miss Jones) - and it must be faced - if good is to be lasting. And it can only be solved by experience.

Before going farther, allow me to recur to the fact that, in the few months you have been engaged in laying the foundations of your work, it has been “successful, so far.” It is developing itself. You are working a quiet but effectual change in Ward-nursing under your Superintendent & Nurses.

The least satisfactory result hitherto has apparently been that obtained from training Probationers, and especially paupers, as Ward Nurses.

[We have great difficulties in obtaining sufficiently good material out of which to form Nurses - Your
problem is greater than ours, and your difficulties are greater than ours in Civil Hospitals. They more resemble those of Military Hospitals During war, it is well known that the very scum of the earth, those best known to the Police, enlist as Hospital Orderlies. It is better now, owing to the immense pains taken by the authorities in forming the new Hospital Orderly Corps -

But it is not this which is so much our subject just now, as the relative positions of Governor & Superintendent, & the training of Nurses.]

Perhaps the best way of shewing you what we have been doing, or rather aiming at doing, will be to send you a copy of a private document -3-
drawn up by me at the request of the Government of India, which request was: - to shew them what, in our opinion, should be the steps taken for providing Nurses over their vast Empire. I scarcely expect that you will have leisure to look at it - but, if you even glance at it, you will see that difficulties similar to yours require to be met in India.

Please return me the paper, as it is private & not official.

In Appendix II, you will find the Regulations under which we have introduced trained Female Nursing into the Army. You will see how we have endeavoured to solve the difficulty of leaving the Superintendt sufficient power over her Nurses without interfering with the Governor.
Her power, you will see, is not absolute
neither is the power of the Governor
absolute. In either case, there is
an appeal against dismissal to the
Superintendent-General of Nurses -
and in the case of Superintendents to the Secretary of State for War -
There could be no such Officer in
Workhouses as “Supt=Genl; and the real point
at issue is, how to find a similar
check in Workhouses, so that the
service may be rendered systematic
and efficient - and yet that no
injustice should be done either
to Nurse or Service, either by
Superintendent or Governor.
This, as I have said, is a problem
which you will have to solve -
and no one who knows you can
have anything but the strongest
confidence that your great practical
experience & your determination to
succeed will enable you to solve
the difficulty for us.
As regards the selection & discipline of Probationers: - the/our regulations are in the paper I send - We have found them answer in our Training Institutions in London. They may not do with you; but I have no doubt you will be able to arrive at the same result by some equally appropriate method.

[I might add that the/your Nursing Staff is not at present, tho’ we hope it may ultimately be, “supported by a compulsory tax” with you, but “by a voluntary subscription” - so to speak - in this approximating more nearly to a Civil Hospital than our Military Hospitals do - Our soldiers know perfectly well that their Institutions are supported by the country - And they consider even more than paupers do, that they have a right to them - for a “Hospital stoppage”, as it is called, is stopped out of their pay.]

With regard to the Training of Pauper Nurses: - this is the point of greatest difficulty; & yet it must be met & solved if we are to succeed.

[The Poor Law authorities, with whom I have communicated much lately on the general subject, appear to consider that the most hopeful material for training is to be found among the elder girls in Union Schools. At the same time, they admit the/our great difficulty: - that these girls can be placed out in situations at a much earlier age than they could possibly be taken on trial in Hospitals, (& apprenticed, if found suitable). In London, I made some enquiry, at the request of the Poor Law authorities - And I found that a charitable Institution was willing to take a limited number & train them in such Nursing duties]
as their age admitted of, until they were old enough to be admitted as Probationer Nurses into the Hospital, nursed by the said Institution.

Of course, the difficulty was: - will the Guardians pay? - (as this Institution was unable to saddle itself with a fresh charge, & do it entirely gratuitously.

It is certain that, if such a scheme could be successfully carried out, a large number of women would be trained to a good bread-winning life.]

As regards training of pauper-women there will, of course, be greater difficulty. I feel, as strongly as you can put it, their low moral qualifications. I know that you think even more keenly than we do that women of known, bad, dirty, drunken, dishonest or general immoral habits should never be selected for training. Indeed, even if such women could be trained, they could never be recommended for employment by you, as you could never be sure of them. Hence the importance of knowing the character & antecedents of such women before training them.

Old women or women in the decline of life are also unfit subjects for training. [We have limited ourselves to certain ages, as you will see.]

Might I ask you, if you ever have a moment’s leisure, kindly to consider the whole subject, now that it has been raised - and perhaps, if you have time, to communicate with me about it?

Our objects are the same, viz. to provide safe & suitable attendance for the sick poor, whether in Hospital
in the Workhouse, or at home. And
I have no fears but that, with
singleness of aim & the accumulation
of practical experience, we shall
succeed in our work -

In any case, - however much I may
desire to help in any way I can, even
however the humblest, - I am the last
person ever to wish to see a
Governor’s authority undermined in
the very least degree - But I do not
see how it can be so -

Pray believe me, dear Sir,
(with many apologies for this long letter)
Your very faithful servt
Florence Nightingale

Would you kindly shew this letter
to Mr. Rathbone, as I have (perhaps
unfortunately) been mixed up in the
discussion - and I am unable, from
ill-health & business, to write so fully
to all as I should wish.

F.N. [end 13:590]

35 South St. July 2/73
Park Lane w.

Dear Mr. Rathbone
I am deeply grateful that
your work is extending itself
to America with so much
prospect of success.
I entirely concur in all
that you recommend in your
letter to Mr. Moore.
That the two Institutions,
(“Charity” & “Bellevue”)
must be independent of each
other -
- that the Female Head must
have charge of all Female
Officers & servants in the building
{edge of page missing - W}e may safely affirm to be a sine qua non.
They sent me and I have read the printed Reports
{o}f the State Charities Aid Association
(o)f the Visiting Commee for Bellevue Hospl
of the Commee on Hospitals.
I was surprised to see my ‘private’ letter to Dr. Gull Wylie
printed in the last in extenso,
containing as it did references to personal matters

-3-
(not £68) for “Bellevue”
with the accessories -
[And I have taken a note of these.] Or is it for “Bellevue” £68?
- I return the whole of your corresponde. I wish you
God speed with all my might
 & am ever sincerely yours
 Florence Nightingale
[Let me thank you
 & not in a Postscript of my heart
 your continued kindness
 anent the beautiful flowering plants.]
But I would urge the importance of some general remarks I have made there (- & which I need not trouble you by repeating here -) on what is essential to the discipline of the Nursing Staff. And, having regard to the necessity for individual responsibility in the one female Head, I cannot but the more strongly feel that it would in no way answer to make “Charity” Staff in any sense dependent upon the Supt of “Bellevue”.

[About Dr. Gull Wylie’s Report I will only add, to you, that, as you well know, Dr. G.W.’s account of what has been & is being done here in the way of Nursing generally greatly magnifies the results.] I had a letter from Mrs. Hobson some time since about a Supt, which I did not answer - for it did not appear to call for any answer.

2.
About the “2 Nurses” for “Bellevue” - I am afraid that Miss Mary Jones has no Nurses now - but I would by all means apply - for the chance - You know her new Address: 39 Kensington Square W.
About St. Thomas’:

In answer to your question,
I am afraid that we have
none to spare -
We have had a great
drain made on us by
Edinburgh Infirmary -
And we can less & less
spare women except as
members of a complete Staff
under our own Trained
Supts.
The 2 “Bellevue” posts would
be rather difficult to fill.
- They must not be gentlewomen -
- They must be real, skilled,
experienced Training=Nurses.
Such will rarely go out
to be under a Supt not their own.
Indeed I never would

send out one year’s Probationers
except as forming part of
a complete/compact Staff.
I consider that it takes a
full year - after the
year’s training - for a
Nurse to settle down into
efficiency.
She has to learn to manage
her Patients as well as
her Nursing -
- to learn neither to be bustling
nor overwhelmed when
there is a press of work -
nor careless when there is
not -
[But indeed of this latter danger
there is now little fear
in Hospitals.]

Dear Mr. Rathbone
I have delayed answering your kind letter of
May 14 because I wished to ascertain what
our St. Thomas’ prospects were: & to consult
Mrs. Wardroper & Mr. Hy Bonham Carter
These would be quite willing to receive “two carefully selected ladies from Boston - into our Training School - upon the same conditions as
other special Probationers - it being clearly
understood that they would be prepared
to abide by all the Regulations — (barring
of course the Obligation)”
if it should be desired hereafter -

But at this moment there are an
unusual number of “Special Probationers waiting,
whom Mrs. Wardroper has more or less
engaged us to admit: & who seem unusually
desirable. We are afraid to say that we
can admit 2 Boston ladies, should they
wish to come in during the next term:
because we shall be so full that some
one else must be disappointed, who besides
believes her Admission to be promised.
Of these Admissions we might possibly be able to
recommend one for Boston should they/Boston be
inclined to wait a year: or we have
even now a lady who has finished about
half her training, who might prove recommend=

in another 6 months.
You see we have nothing definite to offer at
once: & I am rather ashamed of writing
so very ‘conditional’ an answer -
Let me thank you most unconditionally for
your great kindness: in sending me more lovely
flowering plants: & pray believe me (in haste)
-very definitely
ever yours gratefully & sincerely
Florence Nightingale
“Nurses for the Sick Poor”

35 South St.
Park Lane W.
June 13/74

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I will submit a few considerations to you, in answer to your kind note: sure that your greater administrative experience will tell me whether I am wrong -

And as I should be very sorry not to see you again, (even while feeling that I can be of little use,) - & thank you for many kindnesses, I could gladly, if you still wished it, see you for half an hour at 2.30 on Monday as you propose.

I think not only that you can be of the greatest use to these people: but that without you they will infallibly do harm & not good.

I agree with you as to their plan being too vague &c. but I think I am more penetrated than you are with their utter unbusiness-like-ness, with their ignorance of what has been done: including an absolute ignorance (Doctor & all) of what a “Trained” or “qualified” Nurse is: how to find her, how to make her, or how to manage her: but with a very competent knowledge of how not to find her: & generally with their want of practical capacity how to set about an object -

[I have been deluged with their papers: & have had at different times voluminous correspone with several of them - All, Doctor & all, have yet to learn what is a Nurse.]

Without you, there is no salvation for them - of course one wishes (not well but) the best, the very best to such an object -

[[ I entirely agree with you that “in laying down from the first a carefully formed scheme & working it out step by step,” but from a small beginning, all “success”]
must arise.]]
2. Yes: I know the Westr Hospl scheme - Sir R. Alcock wrote the letter in the “Times” signed by the Duke of Westminster: & did it merely because Christine Nilson had offered them a Concert - He knows nothing of any real plan, as the workers told me.

(When Westminster Hospl was/shall be organized so as to be fit for a Training School, (which it certainly is not at present,) under the two Miss Merryweathers, we had intended to pay for the training of DISTRICT Sick Nurses as a part of their work & ours: (as we do at St. Thomas’ for Hospl nurses.)) Sir R. Alcock’s very vague letter merely/only speaks of “private” Nursing, as you will have observed - I merely mention this - because you allude to it.
3. About organizing District Nursing for the Sick poor in London: as you have so nobly done at Liverpool:

Is there any advantage in a Central Society beyond a certain power of getting money - in so vast a place as London? Is there any administrative advantage? And are there not very serious objections - which are avoided by local organization?

Is it not “putting the cart before the horse”?
4. “Presenting to the public a map of the work to be done” Yes: most useful: if it as a Sermon as it were:

but not as a plan to be worked out - Would not that be doing the very reverse of what you so wisely did at Liverpool?

4a.
At such a place as Liverpool the advantage is: that there is an ‘esprit de corps’, or rather ‘de ville’: the leading men know each other: or perhaps rather one man can lead: the place is not too large for a general superintendence
emanating from a centre: & influencing local superintendencies: & providing them with means
Is there anything of the sort in London?
   is there not the very reverse of these conditions?
is there any part of London of the size of Liverpool
   or indeed of any size where any common ‘esprit’ rules?
do the Clergy combine in their Schools for any X practical purpose except to prevent others from teaching better?
what fulcrum is there for any Organization to compare with your Nursing Organization at Liverpool?

{page missing?}
E.g.

5 c Imagine a Central Power - controlling & directing our operations at St. Thomas': or those at Westminster? Is it not as certain as anything can be that they would drag down the standard of training instead of raising it? the inexperienced controlling & “superintending” the experienced?

5 d E. g. again would not the only result of our furnishing a Central Institution with TRAINED NURSES be: that they would be dragged down to the level of the rest? I have asked several experienced men this: & they were all of this opinion.

6. Suppose the Central Society started:
I take for granted that they would get money I feel sure that many, who knew little or nothing of the difficulties of the subject, would give:
they are started then with money and a plan:
[just what you have always so wisely said is: ‘putting the cart before the horse’:] they have no Nurses: not one:
Soon they are obliged to show something in return for their money:
by this time they have found the difficulty which experienced people like yourself could have told them before hand of getting Nurses:
at the end of a year they have perhaps nothing to shew but e.g. the Westminster plan:
they advertise for Nurses: they get together a quantity of useless ignorant women (as has always been done in time of War) - not one of the Society knowing
what a ‘trained’ or qualified Nurse is:
And so the last state is worse than the first
(for they have dragged down the whole standard of Nursing
Did not you, in your most successful
experiment, do the very reverse of all this?

6 a. illeg 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[The tremendous failure of the Johanniter in the Franco-Prussian War has much increased this feeling.]

These are the things which occur to me: & which I try to submit to you for your greater wisdom & experience: excuse my ragged criticism ragged in writing, not in thought -

If I had more time, I could have submitted it to you more connectedly

[I will return your printed paper on Monday.]

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P.S.

I am overwhelmed with business -

Such a revolution in our favour (Indian Irrigation) as Lord Salisbury nailing his colours to the mast in the House of Lords on Tuesday I had never dared to hope

I trust that you mean to vote our “forty millions” in the Ho: of Commons -

Pray believe me
dear Mr. Rathbone

ever yours sincerely & gratefully

Florence Nightingale
3. [It is a great strain upon the energy of people, so overworked as you & I are, & without an oz. of spare strength to fall back upon, as is my case but I hope not yours: to waste any part of it in (not doing our positive work, but) in the negative tho’ much more exhausting task of preventing as we believe a false step.

But if must be must:
and I go on to do/try what you ask because you ask it:]

IS NOT THE FUNDAMENTAL DEFECT running through

the whole of the Observations of the Printed Memda:,

Reports, papers &c of this ‘St. John of Jerusalem’ Committee that they entirely ignore the difficulties of providing

Trained Nurses?

Does not the ‘report’ of the committee shew an utter ignorance not only of what has been done hitherto to provide the means of training - but also - & yet more - of the organization &c necessary to establish a School &c to train skilled Nurses fitted for the object?

The N. Fund School has now been established 14 years:
& has not yet found itself in a position to supply the demand for Trained Nurses for Hospitals & Infirmaries [The N.F. is solely, for the “Sick Poor”]

Besides St. Thomas’”, - - there are King’s Coll: & Charing X (which afford training to St. John’s House): & University Coll: (to All Saints): & these Hospitals afford instruction & training of a more or less systematic, tho’ far from perfect kind.

Something has been done at Middlesex: & recently in connection with the Brit: Nursing Assn, at the Royal Free: a beginning is about to be made under difficult
circumstances at Westminster Hosp: under Miss Merryweather:
but can it be said that, at any of the 3 last mentioned, anything like an organized system of instruction & training is as yet afforded?
St. Bartholomew’s, Guy’s, the London -- -- do these afford any real means of training at all?
[N.B. It has always been our idea, in the N. Fund, that it should eventually afford the means of training Nurses to be employed among the “Sick Poor” at their own Homes that this object was the final & paramount object to be attained.

-5-
but we considered -- & certainly have been entirely borne out by all experience -- that the way to attain this object was to begin at the fountain-head:
to reform the Nursing system of Hospitals where alone Nurses could be trained & that, until that end was sufficiently attained, so that every Hospital & Workhouse Infirmary or, at any rate, most large Hospitals, had brought themselves into the position of
(1) having a trained & Skilled Staff with proper organization for their own Nursing: & then

(2) of being able to train others:
it would be premature & almost useless to attempt the next step of training Nurses for service among the Poor at their own Homes.] Are there not a considerable number of so called Training Institutions & Homes: - a list of which is contained in the Committee’s Report -- but the greater part of wh: have no pretence at all to the name of Training Institutions?
And does not the fact of a Series of Questions having been addressed to all without discrimination, - with a view to elicit facts & information usefully bearing on the subject - shew the Committee’s want of knowledge of the existing state of things? of the ground they have to know before they can lay it out?
The experience of the real Training Institutions already existing: what does it show?

Does it not show

1. that they do not afford the means of providing Nurses for the Sick poor in any considerable numbers, if at all in an efficient way: & that therefore on that ground alone the beginning ought to be made upon a small scale?

2. that the proposal of the printed Memo to “select women, & get them trained at the various London Hospitals is quite impracticable: & will result in utter failure?

3. that any Central authority or Committee would be quite incompetent to “select” the proper women for training: [they might be agents, as you suggested, especially in country towns, to make known the thing to illeg/good country young women, & to make them known to the London & other Training Institutions with great advantage]

(d/4) that the means of training are not to be found in this hap-hazard way proposed?

4. Should not the plan adopted in Liverpool be taken (with modifications) as a Model to begin upon? [No reference is made to this in the Memo or Report or any of the printed papers of the Socy.

If they had lived in Noah’s time after the Deluge could they have begun more table rase?]

Let the Committee give us a sketch of the Liverpool plan
[have they been even down to inspect it?] xx
- a Training Institution
  attached to a Hospital
  which undertakes to provide Nurses
  especially for Service among the Sick poor
  at their own Homes
- the town mapped out into Nursing Districts
- ? a local Committee in each District, guaranteeing salary
  to Nurse?

Note
xx tho’ the Liverpool Training School, is mentioned as one of the
  places to wh: the Comm: sent questions: actually no account of
  this the most successful experiment in Europe is given.]
- a Supt (Matron of Training Institution)? & Assistant
  selecting, training, supervising Nurses
  & inspecting their work
- a District Lady Visitor or Supt under her
  ? selecting cases & generally watching over District
  & assisting Nurses

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  selecting, training, supervising Nurses
  & inspecting their work
- a District Lady Visitor or Supt under her
  ? selecting cases & generally watching over District
  & assisting Nurses

In Liverpool is not the sphere of work such
  that the Supt (with the General Visiting Lady)
  can know & supervise all the Nurses -
  She has moreover herself had them all under her,
  while training
the Managers are all known to each other
  & to the inhabitants generally
there is a certain community of action & mutual
  confidence
But with all this it is stated (by Managers themselves)
  is it not?
that many/some of the Nurses are inefficient
- that they are insufficiently overlooked
- that every thing depends upon what the District Local Lady Supt is -
  that where she does not know what Nursing is: that
the Nurse degenerates into a mere doler-out of the
Charitable relief provided by the local Supt & others
that some Managers would in consequence prefer the
Elberfeld system: where the Nurse is sent as one
of the means of relief: not as giving the relief
that the General Supt sometimes does “more harm than good
“by interfering”:
& sometimes “comes into collision” with the best Local
Lady Supts.

Are not these difficulties
certain to be greatly
agravated the wider the sphere of action
the more numerous the Nurses under one Head
the greater the separation
& the less intimate the knowledge between the
Central Ctee & the District Workers?

[how many Local Lady Supts do you suppose we shall find
in London who do “know what Nursing is”: who are
capable of raising the Nursing above mere alms-giving?
in a few Sisterhoods, yes:
where there are men’s committees, no: except where one of
the men happens to be Secretary of a real Training Institution]

5. Does a Central Association for London afford
any advantages in an administrative point of view?
does it not afford many grave sources of
weakness?
Is not the only useful purpose which a
Central Association may eventually serve
to collect money from a wider sphere?
And would not this be a positive cause of danger
at the outset? except as you propose they refusing/refuse
to accept any money till they can provide the
Nurses?
But - Even so, had they not better see FIRST whether & how soon they CAN provide the Nurses?

6. So far as the work is concerned, does any given District require aid from a Central source? is it not eminently a local work, requiring local effort & local supervision from beginning to end? Must not the work from the difficulty of obtaining Trained Nurses & Trained Supervision begin from small beginnings: & advance step by step even within any given district? much more among 3 millions of people? Having started a Central Association, is there not at once great pressure to do something that will make a show - to attempt much more than means exist of carrying on efficiently - to employ ill-selected, inefficient instruments - ignorant & untried Nurses - inexperienced & unpractical Superintendts-- & the result - for a time bad work: & then failure?

7. May we not add that - given the organization & the Nurses - the proper application of the Nurse’s services for the real benefit of the sick poor is not so simple as the Commtee seem to think? Have they consulted you about this? To benefit the poor in the highest degree illegally/should not the calling of Nurse should be such that trained Nurses should be able eventually to gain an independent livelihood by working among the poor so that the demand may of itself create the supply? Will not charitable aid, unless judiciously applied, in the long run defeat this object as it has done to some extent with regard to Medical attendance? Should not the endeavour be - to provide Trained Nurses - to start them by sufficient aid in the first instance under such restrictions as will ensure their services to the poor: - & at the same time draw from the poor who employ them something towards their support?
-gradually as the real value of the Nurses becomes known to lend to this: that the poor who employ them may contribute a considerable, if not wholly adequate amount of remuneration?

To arrive at anything like this result - would not much discretion & local knowledge & very careful supervision on the part of the Managers be required?

would not the sense of responsibility be much, in a huge place like London weakened by dependence upon a Central support -

-9-

& the tendency of the Nurse to rely upon the Association & not upon her own efforts be thereby greatly increased?

It would be like uniting 60 Liverpools under one Head or Governing Body: & saying:

we will manage these 60 by the Management which did for one?

8. If the promoters of a Central Association want to do something at once: would not by far the best thing they can do be: to convert some existing Hospital or Infirmary into an efficient Training Institution for Nurses to be employed among the sick poor at their own homes?
Are there not several Hospitals largely dependent upon voluntary contributions - and according to their own accounts in a chronic state of insolvency -
- say the London, or St. Mary’s, or Westminster, or Middlesex -
[but or perhaps a Workhouse Infirmary would
  best afford the field: or one field:]
- could not an Association be found in conjunction with & part of the governing body of the Hospital -
[- i.e. widen the composition of the governing body & the objects of the Institution so as to include the Training Institution] introduce the reforms necessary to establish a proper Training Institution: consulting of course the experience of others:
- appeal to the Public for funds to support the Training Institution: & thus add to the Funds of the Hospital a sufficient sum say to defray the whole or part of the cost of the Nursing Staff
- this to be the inducement to the Hospital Governors to join in the movement
- but let there be but one Governing body for the whole.

-then after having established your School & trained your Nurses offer to provide Nurses for any local Association, that may establish itself with a proper organization, for supplying District Nurses for the poor at their own Homes:
- beginning as an experiment with the neighborhood of the Hospital itself under the direction of the Supt: and let this be the adjunct of the School for giving the absolutely essential experience xx in Home Nursing: & also a model for others to follow.

xx N.B. It need scarcely be shown that no Institution
"Nurses for the Sick Poor" AT HOME

35 South St.

Dear Mr. Rathbone Park Lane

After I had sent you my W.

far too long letter, it occurred 17/6/74
to me that a point, which you & I equally
think of importance, had not been made
clear, altho’ (much too) lengthily mentioned by me.

It is this:
These people, while pointing out that there is

NO Institution for nursing the sick poor, (AT HOME

they mean, I suppose:) depend upon

Institutions for sending them at once

a sufficient supply of Nurses for

nursing the sick poor at home -

Was there ever such a non-sequitur?

-Even had we trained Nurses ad libitum
to give, away, like bottles on a Druggist’s shelf,

instead of just the reverse:

we should reply - (and I am sure all

HONEST Institutions would:)

we must select among our best Nurses:

& give them a supplementary course of

instructions & experience - & of testing -

by the poor bed side at home:

{the following 3 lines have vertical lines drawn through them}

which you by your own shewing have

shown not to exist:

& which we have at present no

organization to give:

before we should dare to recommend/supply

you with District Nurses for the poor at home {the para. enclosed by double

lines is inserted here}

But things are worse than this: for we have to create Nurses.

N.B. [F.N. for her part believes: as to moral

qualities: that the highest class of woman -

- higher than the women for Hospital Nursing -

- much higher than women for Rich Nursing

is required for DISTRICT Nursing -]

And some people hold this so strongly that
they say none but 'Sisters' {ladies } can do it. (in which F.N. does not agree.)

Forgive me this Codicil:

it was necessary to point out that these people
- affirm
  state a non-existence
- look to this non-existence for supply

& suggest no other means of supply.

P.S.

It is well known that large Institutions do not turn out fit servants for small & especially for poor families.

Why?

Because large Institutions have all sorts of mechanical contrivances to save personal labour:
- large cooking ranges
- washing by steam &c &c &c

I know no place where this very obvious principle applies so much as in large Hospitals:

& even, tho’ to a lesser degree, in Workhouse Infirmaries:

where every kind of Surgical & Medical appliance is furnished ready to hand -

We always gave our Midwifery Nurses
  a course by the poor HOME lying-in woman’s bed side

We should do the same with the Hospital Nurse:
  to fit her for Home Nursing of the poor where no yrs sincerely kind of appliance F.N. is to be had.

N.B.

The Nurses for the sick poor at home do not exist:
  the ‘St. John of J.’ say they do not: but they suggest no way of causing them to exist: except a Public Meeting and a Committee.
Liverpool & 35 South St.
Ladies Park Lane W.
June 27/74

Dear Mr. Rathbone,

I try to answer your letter, because you bid me answer, before Monday.
How I wish that I could offer you any more efficient suggestions!
1. With regard to Miss Lees:
   I can only say: have her if you can.
   I have scarcely one more eager wish on earth at this moment that that
   she should be settled; & very soon: as
   Head of a Hospital Training=School: practically to carry out what she advises & writes.
   And I know of no one who has had such training & such gifts conferred upon her
   for such a post -
   [If she puts off going into actual harness much longer, it may be too late to put it on at all.]
   At the same time I think that her true calling would be: to found a Training School
   in the busiest London General Hospital
   where there are the most severe cases, accidents & operations: where there is a large
   Professional and Medical School: & where she can show us how to train nurses & “Training= =Nurses” to the highest pitch of perfection.
   [I think this would suit her better than a Workhouse Infirmary: (our London ‘Sick Asylums’ send the Operations to St. Thomas’):]
   - or than superintending District Nurses: the
   which requires, does it not? something of the Missionary superadded to the Matron:

   but, should St. John of J. employ her in the way
Liverpool Record Office 169

above mentioned, District Nurse=training &
District Nursing might most easily be & well
be attached to the same Hospital under her.]

2. After reading & re-reading your letter,
I cannot feel that we could recommend
Miss Pringle to do what you want. Her
peculiar & great qualifications are scarcely
suited to the work you describe.
But as you are aware she is engaged

-2-
till Christmas at Edinburgh:
and if by that time you have not
found such a lady as will suit your work,
the questions can again be reconsidered.
We will not offer her any engagement,
(& she will not take any but what we offer,)
without previously referring to you: or
without informing her of your Liverpool
proposal. [She is so truly sensible that I
should not hesitate to sound her at once
about Liverpool but that I believe it
would rather have the contrary effect to that of
forwarding your wishes.

3. I enclose a letter from Miss Myles: of course
you know these two ladies: a great deal
better than I: herself & sister.
Is it possible that with some months’
initiation from Miss Merryweather they
might undertake the post?
x Do you think that by far the
safest plan would be: to instal some
lady who/(having previously had some connection with
Liverpool Nursing Work) after the your
present Lady Supt had put herself into the way?
This has always been my idea.

4. And also: that one of the ladies now first
under consideration might do/drive better
than any one else: but might also
upset the coach - And that neither of those
first mentioned, tho’ of the most opposite
characters, is at all likely/certain to carry out a
plan, (while improving upon it,) laid down for them/her
{last line is cut off}
I hope that Thursday’s Meeting at Willis’, & Friday’s Meeting at your house, tho’ you do not mention them, did much good & no harm.

And pray believe me
dear Mr. Rathbone
ever yours sincerely
Florence Nightingale

Wm Rathbone Esq MP.

in haste not to keep your 29/6/74

Message
Dear Mr. Rathbone
I had written the enclosed note before your kind letter note came.
I have no knowledge of the Miss Myles to say that they are not “dangerously inefficient” - I entirely agree with you about the “severe professional ideal” - yrs gratefully

F.N.

Dear Mr. Rathbone
I think that it would be the ‘making’ of Miss Lees if she could be the Secretary of the Sub-Comm: for this year & then become Lady Supt to a Training Hospital &c in London for them/the Association.
In zeal, ability, thorough knowledge she would make a first rate Secretary:
We do not know how far she may have the tact necessary - especially with women on the Committee. The very great advantage in having her services would be to conduct an enquiry into the present means of training: the very great danger being, as you are aware, that such an enquiry will prove abortive, unless taken up by some one who understands the matter: And she is the only person who does - The enquiry must of course be made in the spirit of finding out capabilities - & not only of criticizing & pointing out defects. But no Medical men & hardly any ladies really know the essential necessity of organization & trained female Supe in training. [One great lady on the Assn evidently is going to urge the merely sending women to be trained at any Hospital, organized or not, which will take them in]

We entirely agree with you that the Sub Committee should endeavour to impress the need of a Training Hospital with requisite adjuncts - leaving the discussion of scheme for employment of Nurses - registration of Nurses - pensions &c to the future.

LRO Rathbone 610 6/16 signed letter, 2ff, pen black-edged

Liverpool 35 South St
Letter to Mr. Gibbon Park Lane W
July 12/74 [13:265]

Dear Mr. Rathbone

It is so important not to commit you without a reasonable certainty that I took farther advice upon this. We think that, if you write upon your own standing point, you can of course write what you think best, but that, if you
have it endorsed by us, we could not quite certify what you here write to Mr. Gibbon. We are most gratefully anxious to do what we can for you & Liverpool: we think that you may arrange with Mr. Gibbon & your Committee; but we can only say that we will do our best, but can at present not ensure either Miss Pringle’s or Miss Williams’ acceptance. That Miss Williams should take it I believe that I wish - (unless you can find something/body better with more connection with Liverpool) almost more than you do yourself. But she has shown a strong desire to remain in company with Miss Pringle: And as to Miss Pringle the more I think of it the more I believe that she neither could not would run alone in your Liverpool post. We are of course strongly bound to the Edinburgh Committee who have stood by us manfully in the what seemed

at first almost insuperable difficulties. In answer to a former question of yours: I do not think that it would further the cause your going to Edinbro’ & seeing Miss P. & Miss W. You may depend upon me that I am as anxious as you are that your work at Liverpool should have the very best head that can be found - in haste ever yrs gratefully

F. Nightingale
LRO Rathbone 610 6/17 unsigned letter, 4ff, pen black-edged

Natl Nursing Assn 35 South St
Park Lane W
Dec 12/74
6 a.m. [13:735]

Dear Mr. Rathbone,

I have received your long & kind letter: & since that Mr. Guyton’s Map & some valuable information from him.

Miss Lees had engaged herself to come here to-day to stay till Monday, when she goes to H. Bonham Carter’s: then perhaps to return here -

I can better answer your letter when I have had some talk with her.

I cannot express my feeling of the importance of the work you are doing.

I am quite sure that it is the first real knowledge that I or any one has had as to whether London is not nursed at all: or as some have said over-nursed.

Till people know the ABC of this question, no systematic work of any importance can be done.

With regard to Miss Lees, I have said for years to her what is the principle of your letter:

barring your munificent proposal which of course I did not know.

I said it again to her in writing at great length last week.

I still think that with her great abilities & thorough training no one would work like her if once started.

But I think her very much deteriorated by her platform=ing tour in America: {as I told her
{plainly she
{would be -

And in another year I think it would be too late.

I will write more definitely as to your noble
I am must pressed by Indian work which they tell me must be ready by the New Year.

A thousand thanks for the flowering plants - I am quite ashamed of your continuing your bounty. (in haste)

ever sincerely yours

F. Nightingale

I should think it an immense honour, if I were Miss Lees, to initiate such a work as you have laid the first real sleepers/machinery (in another hand) in London.

-2-

May I add two things: perhaps better said before I see Miss Lees -

is it not of the utmost importance that she should herself see some of the District Nurses at work? What they call a Trained Nurse may be very different from what we call a Trained Nurse. At all events, she should see. [And if the Nursing is very bad, nothing is so likely to raise her enthusiasm to make it better].

Please let me ask:

is it necessary at the present stage to decide that she is to be the person to take charge of the Hospital in nubibus? Let her show at least that she can do this work (of enquiring & reporting thoroughly) which she has undertaken.

is it not of the utmost importance that the preliminary work should be patiently & thoroughly done? i.e. by personal inspection which a man cannot do, & observation. If she is fit for the further work, it is more likely to arise out of this than in any other way.

But come how it may, the opportunity will have to be taken advantage of with tact & discretion - opposition encountered - compromises made for the sake of making a beginning.

And she has as yet done little or nothing
“in evidence” to prove her possession of the qualities requisite for such a position —
Is it possible to be yet discussing “an offer to the Committee” of the nature you mention, “either contingent upon her accepting the post” or otherwise?
But I see no harm in my speaking of your plan to her as an object to be attained & worked up to.
[I doubt whether any considerable London Hospital would be willing to put her in authority upon her present “testimonials’.
A poor one might, if she were backed by a large sum of money.
But then the money (if it is to be had) would be for the District Nursing & Training: & not for the Hospital].
This is how it strikes me at present.
F.N.

LRO Rathbone 610 6/18 incomplete letter, 4ff, pencil [13:739-40]

Liverpool District Nursing 35 South St.
April 5/75

Dear Mr. Rathbone
(1) I return with many thanks Miss Howarth’s letter which you were so good as to leave with me:
I ask permission to keep the District Nurses’ papers (which are very instructive) a little longer, as I meant to return them to you with a few deductions: which I have not yet had power to write out.
[Indeed I have been so ill that much of my corresponde remains even unopened: a thing which has
not happened to me since 1855.]

(2) I re-inclose the printed Statistical Table:
    it is the most important document I have seen
at all relating to the subject of District Nursing.
    [Of course you put this into the hands of Miss
Lees when she made her Liverpool visitings]
    It is also most important read in connection
with the Distt Nurses’ papers.
    Its revelations are extraordinary; & by me quite
unexpected.
    Please return me this Table: & as many
more as you can send me - please send me
I do not see that it can be of much use
to Mr. Greg: this in answer to your question:
except as showing
1. the extreme severity of the cases
nursed by the District Nurses
2. the inevitable consequence: viz. that you
might employ 10 times the number of Nursing

-2-

Nurses really to nurse - & that the
cases would find almost more than that with full Nursing
occupation (besides any other women you
might employ for cooking & relieving -
The Dist Nurses’ own papers show that
while these women are most valuable &
indispensable, they are far more of cooks, -
relieving & other Officers for relief, - letter writers,
District Visitors &c &c than Nurses: do you
not think so?)
I confess myself completely at a loss
to understand a letter which I have
seen of Miss Lees
in which she says that she has become
convinced that there is not enough to do
for Distt Nurses, when cases have
been removed to Hospital &c !!!
Your printed sheet shows exactly the
contrary -
It shows enough to do to employ fully a large
Staff of Hospital trained Nurses - to nurse (& alone
to nurse) in Districts, - a larger Staff than
we had any conception of.
Only think what the cases must be
when after weeding them into Hospital
& Workhouse the Death-rate is
153 per 1000!

LRO Rathbone 610 6/19 signed letter, 6ff, pen & pencil [13:740-42]

Draft Report of the M.N. Assn: {District}
   {Nursing } 35 South St.
       Park Lane W.
   April 19/75

Dear Mr. Rathbone
I think it better to send this whole packet
to you, (instead of to Mr. Percy Greg: as I was
desired).
You are the real founder & Pioneer of District
Nursing: to you we owe an immense debt
of gratitude for this. And nothing ought
to go into the Draft Report but what you
approve: altho' you are generously & magnanimously
desirous to stand aloof: as to passing judgment.
I send then the copy of Draft Report (which was sent me) with notes on margin, & 3 Riders in H. Bonham Carter’s hand, founded to carry out 5½ sheets of Notes, (which perhaps I ought also to enclose:
Perhaps you will return me these last some time.] I have no time to copy them]
H.B.C. will supply something additional
Please supply Dr. Trench’s Table: Report Lpool 1873 (mentioned in Rider A. p. 16) for insertion in Appendix if you approve - I should also print in Appendix your New Form for Registering cases: registry is so very important.

Liverpool District Nurses
I also return in another Envelope the whole of the Liverpool Dist Nurses’ papers (‘states’) which you were so kind as to leave with me for remarks; with remarks as you desired. & 4 sheets of Abstract:
I am very sorry that I have not time to make a summary: but, if you will return me the whole, I will. I do not like now to keep them any longer; really interesting & instructive documents as they are -
The impression they leave upon one is

1. that of good women: = most valuable & essential
2. in some instances that they do everything except nurse: what they do being indis-
=pendible -

[Please, look particularly at 13 & 17]
Forgive me this very rough scrawl:
& very rough remarks
You have your Meeting on Friday for the N.N. I must not delay any longer: in great haste Believe me to be Yours ever truly & gratefully Florence Nightingale

I also return Mrs. Farrell’s letter with some remarks, as you desired}
This must be the merest “visiting” indeed, with smallest admixture of Nursing but the “one Case dressed”
A “giver out of Meat”
& Relief Giver to all but two

Nurse 2 x 5 daily dressings
3 days a week “cooking days”
2 “general visiting days”
seeing to the “wants of the poor” ? sick
baby clothes
how much is
flannel singlets & shirts to poor men going
Nurse’s work?
Central Relief & Ladies’ Charity notes & notes for Dispensing Doctors
sees to Parish Relief for poor widows & aged poor ? sick

Nurse 5 x
3 cooking days a week till 1 p.m.
4 Cases daily (2 poulticing
2 bedmaking
2 days sees ALL her Patients
“has to be where she can” gets Central Relief
“My “good Ladies give money”.
leends Bedding & sees that it is returned
Nurse 3 x 38 P. (12 Fever: 2 women to help: all cooked for at Nurse’s house [how much better to have a Home]

9 to Fever Hospil
1 died
8 recovered
20 left (11 nursed & dressed daily

(2 Fever
2 Ulcerated Legs
1 Abscess in hind Surgical Accident
1 Stroke
1 Bronchitis
1 Inflammation of Knee
1 Asthma
2 Childbed (one with a rupture

11

Some
Patients come to her own house & eat there
Sees & reports to & gets orders/information from Dispensary Doctors:
visits with things
“according to Doctors’ orders
“persons apply for Ladies Charity notes, Central Relief, various other kinds of relief
removing Cases to Hospl: takes a great deal of time
often has to attend Parish Board or see Relieving Officer
send Reports for Disinfection
clean Beds attended to
gets destitute children into Schools & Shops

Nurse 9A & B x 46 Cases
Of which only one she appears to have nursed

Nurse 10 & 11 x 44
This woman “takes notice of” fractured legs & gives
“advice upon them”
& “sees Fever Cases”
& talks more like a Consulting Physician & Surgeon than anything else
She has an “Assistant Nurse”
Nurse 13 x 34 Patients
" 17 x 42 (8 daily
twice a week 26 2 or 3 times a week
daily food given out 9-10 a.m.
cooks 3 days a week
13 “great part of her time taken up” in obtaining Parish relief
17 in procuring notes for Central R. Society “ “ Admission to Hospitals
admissions into Convalesct Instns (providing linen for these
“ Dispensary
sending for Ministers at Patient’s request
“ writing letters for them
“ acknowledging P.O. orders weekly from Charitable Clients
“ finding employment for recovered & for their friends
“not coming under head of Nursing”
{She may well say this}

Nurse 16 x 1 morning with Lady Supt
1 afternoon paying Bills & ordering things
lends & enters Linen
Sees Doctors about Patients to Infty or Workh: &c
& goes with the Patients
makes one Patient’s bed
visits & rejects unsuitable Patients

Nurse 14 x 22 Cases visits “nearly all” 3 days & days/a week
addresses 8 daily
how many cooks 3 days a week 1 baby to wash
can she nurse? goes to Supt one day
{1 day makes up accts withdls
{2 days sees Drs for worse

Nurse 4 x 21 cooks for all 3 days a week {cases & visits “all the
others
“very bad confinement case with inflammation
? peritonitis
2 hours daily very bad Scarlet Fever case !!!!
has “to attend Parish Board”)
1 Paralysis makes bed for 2 Debility
takes up her time.
) 1 very bad leg
1 Abscess sees Dr. for “very bad
Inflammation case”
Liverpool Record Office 182

Nurse 7 x 58 Cases 10 cases daily
cooks for 56

{Wednesday
{Monday visits 26 nourishment to all 2 dressings
Tues 10 daily
Thurs 20
Friday 10 milk to 46
B. Tea 10 or 40
Rice Milk 40

meets Parish Doctor
goes to Parish Office to get relief
supplies Air Pillow
prepares Patients for Convalescent Home
“in edition to &c &c” & do any real Nursing to any of
the 10?

LRO Rathbone 610 6/20 signed letter, 2ff, pen [13:749]

35 South St.
Park Lane W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone Feb 23/76
I am sure that you will be pleased to find what
a good start Miss Lees has made in initiating,
herself, into District work the Nurses.
[Our people (from St. Thomas’) say that 6
weeks with her is worth to them a year’s training –
she knows so exactly what to do in each wretched
case; & how to do it: & how to show them how to do it]
Miss Lees feels, as we all do – & who so much
as I? – that we owe this first-rate start
in a great undertaking entirely to you.
She is very far from well: overworked & worried & needs a holiday very much, which she is very unwilling to take.

We want her to go for a few days next week to the sea NOT to her home: & then to take a good fortnight’s holiday (I prescribe Boulogne or Dieppe) the first fortnight in April.

This last she is especially recalcitrant against: because she believes that you wish to send a lady to her at the end of March for a fortnight to see the working of the District Nursing: & she feels, as is indeed the case, that your wishes ought to be sacred to her.

Could your lady come to her after Easter instead of before? say April 17 or 18.

If you think well, this would give Miss Lees her fortnight’s holiday: but I am sure no one but you could persuade her –

Pray believe me, dear Mr. Rathbone ever yours sincerely & gratefully

1000 thanks for the flowering plants: you are too good to me

LRO Rathbone 610 6/21 signed letter, 2ff, pen

35 South St.
Park Lane. W

Dear Mr. Rathbone Feb 21/77

I am ashamed both that you should have had the trouble of writing to me: & that I should have been so long in answering you –

I wrote to you, knowing that it was ‘bad’ of me to write, when you must be just starting from Liverpool.

And I am very grateful to you for the 50 copies of your Speech to the Working men=
which are most useful.

So far as I remember, the rest of my note was merely a deeply felt tribute to your honoured Father, called forth by the unveiling of his Statue.

& a short Abstract of Miss Lees’ work & of her Probationers with us at St. Thomas’.
& her one from our Highgate Infy: for I always look upon her work as your doing.

If I can be of any use to you about the new Manchester Workhouse Infirmary, I am, how gladly, at your service – But I think your advice much better than mine.

Is not your “Miss Baker” Matron of Leeds Infirmary? I have had a letter from a Mrs. Dawson, Lady Supt of “Leeds Trained Nurses’ Institution “, asking for advice about London training She had much better train at Leeds’ Infirmary.

The “diameter”, inside, of the zinc basin “where the flowers stand,” of the “basket flower stand” which you were so good as to give me is 16½ inches.

But I do really hope that you are not planning one of your too generous inventions.

Pray believe me ever yours sincerely & gratefully Florence Nightingale
Dear Mr. Rathbone

In answer to your note, the results of this measure must be disastrous for Nurses must they not?

It does not reward long service in old Nurses: it does not promote training for young Nurses; It does not encourage real Nursing work. It may be said to do almost the reverse of all these things.

1. Had the reward of good service been the object might it not have given the annuity to a limited / selected number of "recommended" trained Nurses, who after 15 or 20 years good hard service (I could name one of 19 yrs.) at various posts abroad & at home are still in the work "recommended" by their respective authorities.

2. Or, had the promotion of good training been the object, might not such have been put within the reach of poor Institutions? There are such which have Nurses of excellent character but which are too poor to have them properly trained. They send them to some Hospital for 3 months to come into the Wards in the morning after everything is done.
& to leave the Wards in the
afternoon before anything/evening treatment is
begun, & where of course they
learn nothing.

Could not something of the
nature of ‘Scholarships’ be
founded for such?
[We have no room for more
Probationers: it is not for want
of money that we do not take such/more;
more than at present.]

3.

Had the extension of trained
Nursing among the poor sick
at home - by far the most
pressing want - been the object
why could not Hospitals
have been called upon to
recommend suitable Nurses -
& out of the number so recommended
a certain number been allowed
to volunteer for District Nursing
for 3 years: in East London:

each to receive £50 a year
& the District Home £50
a year for her: from the
St. Rathbone Fund -

Two or more District Homes
in the East End might
thus have received a most
considerable contribution
of the very best kind -
(a system calling “for payment
& effort,” as you say being
promoted)

And the very best kind
of hard Nursing work wd have
been essentially promoted
& honour done to it: by its
being made a kind of reward.
[This wd have been free from
the objection you mention
of being connected with the
“M. & N. N. Assn”: because the
Nurses would have come direct
from the Hospitals.
But what is the present scheme?  
It gives a Nurse £50 a year on condition that she shall go to nurse “a poor or other person” at the Queen’s command at a moment’s notice.  
Either this is nominal: that is, a sham: [and what a lesson to teach a Nurse, to give her £50 for a sham!]  
Or it makes Hospital Nursing impossible.  
For how can a Ward Head Nurse, Surgical or Medical, leave the Ward she is in charge of to go & nurse a “poor or other person” at any notice short of a month.  
[Our Ward ‘Sisters’ must give 3 months’ notice to] leave]  
Either the Hospital authorities must “recommend” to St. Katherine only Nurses not fit for any of their responsible posts.  
Or they must pay the Queen £50 a year to let their Nurses alone.  
I think the Lord Chancellor has paid St. Katherine a very poor compliment.  
Should not I get out of my grave to prevent such a thing happening to St. Thomas?  
Then the scheme of rewarding individuals while taking so very few individuals into account (only of two or three Hospitals) is: like giving a Doctor’s Diploma because he belongs to a particular Hospital.
It might be named an
‘Order for discouraging trained
Hospital Nursing:’
You are so good as to ask
my opinion.
Excuse the haste of overwork:
& believe me
ever most truly & gratefully yours
Florence Nightingale
Wm Rathbone Esq M.P.

LRO Rathbone 610 6/23 signed letter, 2ff, pencil

10 South St July 22/89
Private Dear Mr. Rathbone
I should be so surprised if it were
any one but you & I am so touched by
your great & unceasing & wise kindness -
& the trouble you take for poor old me -
that I do not know how to put my
gratitude into words -
This morning I have had a lady
whom my sister was very anxious that I should
try writing in my room a very good hand to my dictation
for a couple of hours - [as she cannot short
-hand or type-write, I had her in my
room, which is fatiguing - But she is a
very pleasant person & well educated]
& copies well in the British tongue -
I came to no arrangement with her.
& she did not ask it - but is to come again
on Thursday & as long as you want your
Miss Jennings.
It is truly kind of you to offer her -
And I will gladly accept your kind offer
to lend her to me for "Wednesday", as you
proposed, from 11 till 2, if that will
suit you & her - bringing her type-writer
& short-hand book - at any remuneration
you please - I suppose she can also copy in English hand.
You kindly enable me thus to judge -
I am most earnestly anxious to save my
eyes & right hand which is also failing.
- anxious were it only out of gratitude
to you - [I should perhaps say
that I found, which is, I believe, not peculiar to me, my eyes so dazzled by reading & revising & interlining my last Secretary’s type-writing, & my head so tried, that it was really less fatigue sometimes to write my letters myself.]

I will thankfully see Miss Jennings - I think that was the lady you kindly offered - on “Wednesday” at 11.

Believe me ever yours gratefully & sincerely

F. Nightingale

I hope I did not make you late on Saturday. You were so kind.

LRO Rathbone 610 6/24 signed letter, 2ff, pen

Private 10 South St. Park Lane W

August 1/89

I have again, as ever dear Mr. Rathbone, to thank you for your extreme kindness to me & my work -

So engaged am I on to-day “Thursday” & “Saturday” when you so kindly offer me Miss Jennings that I am afraid I could not spare the strength to dictate.

But I shall be thankful to have her on Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, next week, & on=

perhaps for some days, appointing these - from 11 till 1 - perhaps keeping her till 2.

But, dear & generous Mr. Rathbone, it would be impossible for me to ask for her, & thus prey upon you, unless you will kindly tell me what remuneration I ought to give her.

Praying upon you it is always, whatever happens.
You have done indeed a good year’s work for the Q.V.J. Inst. & are on the high road, I believe, to a greater success than any one could have conceived possible in so prickly a matter -

I will return your two printed Memes, which touch me to the heart, to-day or to-morrow - ever yours truly & gratefully

F. Nightingale

A page would not hold

the apologies I owe you for sending this note only this morning.

F.N.

LRO Rathbone 610 6/25 signed letter, 4ff, pen & pencil black-edged

Registration of Nurses
Board of Trade Feb. 24/91
10, South Street, {printed address:}
Park Lane. W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I am exceedingly obliged to you for your great kindness in writing to me about this troublesome business.

Mr. Bonham Carter will not be at the Meeting at St. Thomas’ on the 27th. He was to go yesterday to Eastbourne for his health.

We hope that your Parly duties will not prevent you from going
to this Meeting - And if you go & as you kindly wish it, I would ask you to say something like the following on the other page for me: you will put it so much better than I - Do you think you will be able to go to the Meeting?

I am interrupted

{written lengthwise on the page}
that you know generally that I, F.N., do not think that a system of Registration such as proposed is for the benefit of the Nurses

-2-
10, South Street, {printed address:}
Park Lane. W.
I do feel like you that it is a sorry business & has taken on such a personal & party spirited aspect (this for Nursing of all things in the world!) as to be made to look like “rival schemes “quarrelling” - Mr. Burdett who has not been taught to see the beauty of truth is as a friend our most dangerous enemy.

We do not like his scheme, nor any scheme to be authorized by the Hospitals e.g. the difficulty will remain how to take off the name of a Nurse proved unworthy - If it is only omitted, the Nurse will enquire why?
The danger is, as you say, that Princess Christian is said to be using pressure - that the Board of Trade may prefer Princesses to Training Schools - that we have Mr. Burdett on our side.

that it is almost impossible to explain to the non-Hospital public how the scheme will injure alike Nurses & the people who want good Nurses - by putting the Register between the public & the Training Schools - & between the Nurses & their Alma Mater -

But you know all this

& a great deal more better than I -

I must give you joy of your Liverpool new Infirmary

I was sorry to hear Miss Stains was ill.

But I will not take up your precious time -

ever yours sincerely & gratefully

Florence Nightingale

{seven lines scribbled over follow}
Dear Mr. Rathbone,

Pray forgive me for writing again in answer to your kind letter.

I understand that Mr. Burdett is bent upon bringing forward his scheme of a “Directory” for Nurses at the Meeting on Friday at St. Thomas’.

Mr. Wainwright, the Treasurer, is wisely bent on restricting the Meeting to considering the proposed application to the Brit. Nurses’ Assocn to the Board of Trade.

The best that can be hoped from Mr. Burdett on Friday is, we are told, a “suggestion” that a “Committee of the representatives of the Training Schools should be formed to consider this Directory proposal on its merits”.

I trust that the Schools will be firm in maintaining their freedom —

Otherwise what you prophesy will but too certainly happen.

We shall want you very much at the Meeting —

ever sincerely yours,

F. Nightingale
Feb. 26/91
{printed address:} 10, South Street,
Park Lane. W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

Good speed to the
Meeting at S. Thomas’ -
And may they all
vigorously uphold
the plain principles
which you will
advocate - and in
which, as you know,
I thoroughly concur
with all my mind
& experience, as
essential to the

progress of Nursing
to good, to better,
to best -
And may every Nurse
of us all feel:
not exactly: “there’s
“nothing gained while
“aught remains” to be
gained:
but certainly:
all is lost if we
don’t make constant
progress the key-
–note of (British Nurses)
(or) trained Nursing.

- if we allow our present
stage to be stereotyped
Pray accept
the good wishes of the
Nurses’ faithful servant
& yours

Florence Nightingale
Dear Mr. Rathbone

You are more than kind in taking so much trouble.

In compliance with your desire, I would suggest, but something like the following, instead of Para. 2., p. 2, but subject of course entirely to your judgment.

2. You cannot select the good from the inferior Nurses by (any test or) system of examination (whatever, except indeed by the current tests, examinations & observations of their superintendents) Whatever brought them to consider their intellectual training as anything but a means to make their obedience more intelligent, their practical training more important, & their future progress in efficiency by the bedside more secure/certain “would only” down to “colleagues” 4. But most of all & first of all must their moral qualifications be made to stand per-eminent in estimation & this even by any intellectual or theoretical qualifications

All this can only be secured by the current supervision, tests or examinations which they receive in their Training School or Hospital - not by an examination from a foreign body like this - Indeed those who came off best in such would probably be the ready minds/ & forward not the best Nurses
Meeting last Friday March 1/91
at S. Thomas’.

10 South Street, {printed address:}
Park Lane. W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

We are infinitely indebted
to you for the success of
Friday’s Meeting, including
the D. of Westminster’s protest
which answers some of the
objections to/against us of those
who think they must “stand
“by the daughter of the Sovereign”
[There is so much of
cross-purpose in this world:
it behoves us not to make them
cross-er, but to hold, with love
to each other, as you do, to the
one great purpose which I do
believe inspires us all.]

I have no doubt that we
shall be still more
indebted to you for your
conversation with Sir Michael
Hicks Beach tomorrow
night in the House - for
after all that is the
important thing-to move
the Heads.

[We cannot expect to move
general public opinion much,
(other than Hospital public)
And I believe the “Times”
has had/given no notice of the
Friday’s Meeting, which is a
pity - the more so as
on Friday morning it put
in a laudatory notice of
the Brit. Nurses’ Assn project
of Register.]

Sir Harry Verney is keenly
interested against Registration
& very anxious to be of use.
He asks me whether he
shall write a private note
to Sir M. Hicks Beach,
whom I suppose he knew
in the House. I don’t like
either preventing him or
forwarding him in this (for
fear the point should be
missed) in this.

But, if you would & could
add to your other great
kindnesses & occupations,
a brief note to me of
what will have passed
between you & Sir M.H. Beach
tomorrow night - together
with, if you think Sir Harry
should write, what you
think he should write -
I should indeed be more
grateful than ever -

ever yours most truly

F. Nightingale

Excuse scrawl
Dear Mr. Rathbone

I send you what you ask
But if you are going to
give “copies” of it, would
you not modify what you
say about “ignorant female
“Doctors” p.2 -
You will kindly remember
that it was not I who
said this - I was revising,
as you told me, a
passage for you to speak
in your speech.
Also I think I would say,
instead of “40 years hence,”

p. 2 -
30 years hence or 20 or
30. This too was not
intended for me to say
publicly.
Also: I think there is
too much about me.

Confidential
We have not reached
the great Doctors/”Medical opinions”
(Doctors) whom Sir M.
Hicks Beach wishes to
pit against Acland,
Paget & Dyce Duckworth
Could you reach Sir
Andrew Clark? He is
not for the Brit Nurses’
Assocn -
ever yours gratefully
F. Nightingale
Monday June 13/98
10, South Street, Park Lane. W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

You very kindly asked me yesterday whether I had anything to ask you. Yes, I have; but you were in a hurry then -

I wanted to ask you -

You who are such an authority in these things - about your District Nurses or Sanitary Missioners [but we must not use the last word in London]

We are on the very threshold of training here e.g. in teaching mothers how to feed infants under two

Their general answer is: “oh they have what we have” And it is but too true -

Doctors say that a digestion under two, if spoilt, never recovers itself thro’ life - And we have sad testimony to this -

Do your District Nurses teach (or your Midwifery Nurses) how to feed young children?
It is incredible what is given to quite young children by the tenderest mothers -
I am afraid you are going away tomorrow -
And also I have an engagement - but if you are not going, I think I could put off mine.
Thanking you again & again for all the good you do us, ever yours
F. Nightingale

Dear Mr. Rathbone
I am obliged to write rather in haste -
I enclose a note to yourself as you wish it: for you to alter, as you please - I think “British Nurses” is personal - & should be left out/exchanged for “trained Nursing”
But I should INFINITELY prefer, if you must have a note, that this, or any part of it should come in as a sequitur to your quoting
me at the end of your first Para:
My note, & my address are not to be given to any reporter, please - of any kind -
And I do so dread being the head or tail of any party, or a rival to any one -
Make me as innocent as you can -
It is against my judgment to write a note to be read out - & appear - perhaps separately - in a newspaper.

-3-
Private I may add that I have had occasion to look over with one of our most experienced Matrons, the "Articles of Association" of the B.N.A. - and - I forget whom I am quoting - 'Sir, you do not know the strength of the expressions I am keeping back' -
F.N.
Forty years hence when so much progress has been made that this time is looked back upon as the time of bad Nursing, the Registration might do.
34 Regent Street,
Park Lane,
London. W.
May 26, 1865.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

God bless you for all your kindness to me. You have given me a most precious gift of help in need. Your beautiful flowers, so perfect a group, with this beautiful table and basket so complete, delight my eyes. And you must not judge of my delight by my delay in answering. After all, the good old words, “Thank you” but express what we mean when we say we don’t know how to thank and bid God bless you.

But, you must not, you must not indeed, trouble yourself, especially not the lady, whom I guess to be Mrs. Paget, to go on replenishing this beautiful thing. It is still quite fresh.

Ever yours gratefully,

F. Nightingale
Liverpool Record Office 203

typed copy of initialed letter, ff4-9

f4

34, South Street,
Park Lane,
London. W.
July 21, 1860

My dear Sir,

I have read with intense interest your Hand-book. I regret that I have been so busy, and my strength so over taxed, that I have only now been able to do so. (Although as the whole country has been busy, this does not so much matter). But, once taken up, I could not lay it down till I had read it through in two sittings. And then I read it through again. I have studied all the rules and forms with the greatest profit and interest to myself; as indicating a master hand in securing that unity, yet independence of action, that personal responsibility and development of a great and wide charity like this.

I admire how its permanence is wisely provided for by giving as much local responsibility as possible in lieu of tying it up in the hands of the original founders or Central Society, by interesting as many persons as possible leaving them free to act in their own way, while keeping up all necessary uniformity.

You ask me to write a few remarks by way of preface. I have some difficulty in doing this because I am cited as authority for some part of the principles.

A report on such a subject as the “Training of Nurses” to supply “lack of service” towards the poor, afflicted and dying, should of itself command attention, simply on its own merits. But if any arguments were required on its behalf, surely in this practical age, the best argument is the success which has attended the efforts made in Liverpool. These most satisfactory
results, though not greater than you deserve, are greater than even the most sanguine hopes could have foreseen. Nowhere, that I know of, are the difficulties of organising a system for nursing the sick in their own homes likely to be greater than have been there encountered, and so far overcome. There is a dense and rapidly increasing population drawn from all quarters, most of them of that lower class which has to change its home in order to be able to live. There have been hitherto strong Religious partisanship, a very great amount of sickness; (as is testified by the extent of local Medical charities), a lamentably high death-rate, especially among children, always the readiest victims to want of good nursing in sickness, and, together with all this, much inevitable poverty, and ignorance among the poor as to the proper management of their sick at home; (this we find everywhere, but nowhere else perhaps so much) often want of every appliance and nursing care which should surround the sick bed; and great though remediable as a consequence. It is the old story, often told, but this Report opens a new chapter of it. It gives us hope for a better state of things.

An Institution for Training nurses in connection with the Infirmary, has been built and organised. This is a matter of necessity, because all who wish to nurse efficiently must learn how to nurse in a Hospital. Nursing, especially that most important of all its branches, nursing the sick poor at home is no amateur work. To do it as it ought to be done requires knowledge, self abnegation, and, as is so well said here, direct obedience to and activity under the Highest of all Masters, and from the highest of all motives. It is an essential part of the
daily service of the Christian Church. It has never been really otherwise. It has proved itself superior to all religious divisions, and is destined by God’s blessing, to supply an agency, the great value of which, in our densely populated towns, has been unaccountably overlooked until within these few years.

Nothing indeed can afford a stronger argument for the local support of the Liverpool agency than the simple fact of its past success, while at the same time, the example should be followed among other large populations, and will be. It is a comparatively indifferent matter under what organization a system of home nursing of the poor is carried out. It may be done, and well done, by districts, as in Liverpool; or by parishioners in parishes; or by members of Christian churches. The great thing is that it be done, and done well. And to those who want to know how such work can be successfully carried out, in conformity with our English feeling for freedom of action, I would urgently recommend a careful study of this Report.

I need scarcely say, therefore, how earnestly I press for the publishing of this account of the work, as being a pioneer rather than model for similar Institutions all over our country. The work in Liverpool requires greater extension and more support, before all the fruits of it ripen. But so far as it has gone, it has proved its own future possibility by its past success, and promises to be one of the most important agencies for coping with human misery which the present day has put forth. Let us all wish it Godspeed.

No words of mine are wanted to call attention to the subsidiary benefits to the poor involved in this great work.
They are not new. But they are not so widely put into practice in our country as they should be - e.g. D.2. p. dr/65 5. the sending of the convalescent poor to the sea-side is a kind of relief, of which it is impossible to calculate. the benefit, no more than its result in diminishing pauperism. Every large town in the kingdom ought to have its Convalescent Institution for the poor by the sea-side, or in the country. For the rich the good of a change of air, nay even its necessity, is never doubted. It is ten times more necessary for the poor.

Again, p.77.V - last paragraph: -
It is most essential to direct the attention of educated women, district visitors, even of Ministers of Religion - in all places - to this, viz. what power is given to them by local Acts to prevent disease by enforcing sanitary improvements. It is singular how lamentably ignorant educated persons are on this point. But many have often themselves deplored, as I can bear witness, this their ignorance.

V. also p. 84. Lines 8, 9 and 10 from the top.
pp. 85 last paragraph to end of ...........
pp. 86 top.

These alone, if these were the only benefits, show the wisdom and efficiency of incorporating in an organisation the assistance of local authorities and securing the willing co-operation of charitable volunteers.

I don’t need to say these efforts are new and original. But I mean that it is most satisfactory to find the Lady Superintendents and nurses exercising certain powers and influence in sanitary matters, such as obtaining the cleansing - and lime-washing of
unhealthy houses and places. It is a wise addition to their duties. It improves the domestic habits of the poor. It protects their health. It prevents diseases. It gives the nurses more time to attend the sick. Similar sanitary duties should always be associated with nursing. (But, even now, “Sanitary” has become almost a cant word of which we are tired. Few educated persons, even philanthropists, are practically acquainted with our Health Acts, so as to call in their help in time of need).

Again. p. 86. - last two paragraphs.

What a merciful suggestion is that of supplying good food, properly cooked from Workmen’s Dining Rooms, to poor patients recovering from sickness. In preventing relapses, so often incurred by returning too soon to work, put off too long, it is a means only second to change of air, and to be employed after it in most cases.

I have taken only a few instances out of your appendix of collateral good arising from this work. I cannot better end my letter (preface) than by quoting from your “Address to the Nurses”, words which I would take to myself and address to all engaged in this great work.

“ If you feel, . . . . that you are members of a family, you will be ever desirous that the character of that family should be as high as possible, that it should be a credit to belong to it; that no act or word of yours should bring shame upon it, but on the contrary, each of you will strive by the gentleness, quietness modesty and truthfulness of your conduct, by constantly increasing proficiency in your profession, and by the thoroughness and conscientiousness of your work, continually to raise the character of the School and of all belong to it, higher and higher . . . .”

“. . . There is no pride so mean, so contemptible as that which makes a person above her work. There is nothing really mean, or degrading, or unclean, which our duty calls us to do, but if ever pride leads us to leave part of our duty or work undone, or ill done, then indeed, we are degraded.” 1.

P.S. Would you look at “From...to Patients” p. 80. (which is admirable) and think whether something might not be added to it?

Also at p. 84 “query”

If you make up your mind to publish any letter, or any part of it, I should like to have both this your book back and my M.S. letter if you please.

F.N.

1. Extract from address to Nurses on the New Year, 1864.
35, South Street,
Park Lane.
W.
May 13, 1869.

Dear Mr. Rathbone,

I was unwilling to trouble you till the time came, when, as I hope, you are leaving London for Whitsuntide.

I have now had all the statistical information, which seems available, about your District Nursing, and have had all the slips abstracted and reduced at the Registrar General’s Office. I send you a copy of the Aggregate sheet which may be kept at Liverpool, if you please, as I had it made on purpose for you. (I have another).

You will see that the Death rate is 14 per cent. And it does not appear (from the slips) that the highest mortality comes from aged infirmity, but from the productive period of life. This fact is alarming and ought not to be considered as final. If you think we can obtain any more light upon it, pray have it sent to me. It would be as well to obtain the corresponding facts from the Liverpool Dispensary books, (which could probably be furnished by the House Surgeons).

1. The total number of cases attended by the paid Medical Officers at the patients’ own homes for the two years, 1867 and 1868.
2. The deaths among these home cases for the same two years.

Mr. Langton has sent me a number of Liverpool Dispensary Reports, but they do not give the necessary information.

Ever yours sincerely,
F. Nightingale
BOSTON - (2 letters returned) 35, South Street, Park Lane. W.
Sept. 2, 1874.

Dear Mr. Rathbone,

I am shocked at myself for having been so long answering this question - We have no one to recommend. But one can always find time to write a “Yes” though not a “No”. And if you know how I have been occupied! I did, however, consult with both Mrs. Wardroper and Mr. Henry Bonham Carter as to whether we had anyone to recommend. And we were all obliged to come to the conclusion that we had not. This arises chiefly from my insisting gradually more and more upon our carrying out what I have always considered as desirable - viz: that we should recommend no lady as Training Superintendent who has not had, not only her year’s training, not only experience as Ward Sister, but also experience as Assistant Supt. in one of our Hospitals.

The lady who Mrs. Wardroper had thought of for Boston is now going to gain such experience as Assistant to one of our Superintendents. I am very sorry that we cannot help you this year, owing to what you will think is my obstinacy.

I have again to thank you for your great kindness, which lend such a charm to my life, in sending me the flowering plants. I left London this day week to take charge of my poor widowed mother at Sir Harry Verney’s during the Verneys’ absence from home.

Pray believe me, dear Mr. Rathbone,
Ever yours sincerely and gratefully,
Florence Nightingale

Miss Lees
The Crown Princess of Germany, who has great influence over her,

is as strongly impressed as we are, with the vital importance to F. Lees herself of setting to work at once.
35, South Street,
Park Lane. W.
Jan. 24, 1877.

Dear Mr. Rathbone,

I was so delighted with your address to the working men at Liverpool on Jan. 9 that, though short of time and strength, I made an M.S. abstract of it for the men on my dear father’s place at Lea in Derbyshire. There there is no poverty but that of drink. I have seen nothing for a long time so calculated to do good. I venture to trouble you with the question *Where is it to be had when published?*. Perhaps you will kindly let someone tell me.

Your Miss Persé is a splendid worker. She is doing great work with Miss Lees, and, I rejoice to think, will be in your Liverpool District work.

The new Holloway Nursing Home is open under Miss Less, whom I saw yesterday; she is nursing hard. (This is all owing to you).

Ever yours sincerely and gratefully,

Florence Nightingale.
September 5, 1881.

Dear Mr. Rathbone,

I have so many things to thank you for, I know not how to begin.

Your beautiful flowering plants I have enjoyed all the year, but with many regretful thoughts of what a burthen I am on your kindness. On August 20 I desired the nurseryman not to send any more, as I was leaving London the next week. I have rejoiced in your kindness and reverenced your generosity so many years that I would fain ask you - (not to cease your kindness or generosity, for that would be causing nursing progress to cease) - but to discontinue this particular token of it.

I have to thank you for your kind letter about Mrs. Wardroper and her “assistant”. I am afraid there are doubts whether she will take your most valuable advice. But no stone will be left unturned on our side, as far as we can do this “gingerly” and turn our “stones” smoothly. She, poor woman, has had a sharp attack of illness, and is now going away for a much needed rest. And she and I have not been able to have much conversation on any point which troubles her.

I am not sorry that Miss Hutchins, now at Manchester, has been wise enough to decline your splendid offer of putting her to be trained as District Home Supt. for which she has, in truth, no adaptability I know her, and I find in my private notes - “would be nowhere in District Nursing”.

I will not forget to obey your kind behest “before November” to give you my notes about the training and especially the lying-in training at Liverpool Parish Infirmary. (I have it all written down in pencil. so that what accuracy it has, it will keep).
March 26, 1887.

Dear Mr. Rathbone,

I don’t know how to thank your for your kind letter. I am so glad to hear from you again. I trust that you and Mrs. Rathbone are well.

It would be presumptuous of me to “approve” and yet more to disapprove your letter on behalf of Miss Gibson. Would it not be much better that you should send it direct to Miss Gibson? Any criticism of its contents would be unfair upon her, and perhaps, I may say, inappropriate, seeing that the testimonial is from you, who have the fullest right to give it, and not from me, who have little. I need scarcely say that I have the highest opinion of Miss Gibson, but I hardly feel that the circumstances of the case warrant my departing from the rule I have been obliged to follow not to write testimonials.

How deeply I wish success to your Parish Infirmary Nursing I can never say; or how much I regret that Miss Gibson thinks herself compelled to seek a higher salary elsewhere. She has done great good in it. May your new Royal Infirmary reward all your labours too. I heard with delight that it was shortly to be begun. How immense is the improvement you have effected in Hospital, Infirmary, Nursing and District Nursing. May God bless you for it! And He will bless you.

Ever yours most gratefully and most truly
Florence Nightingale.

I return your letter to Miss Gibson.

ff93-95, 20 October, 1887, unsigned letter from Mr. Rathbone to FN, re Sir Rutherford Alcock’s plan about nurses and their remuneration, rewards etc.
Dear Mr. Rathbone,

I shall be delighted to see you on Tuesday at 5 - if convenient to you. I am sorry that this is the only time I have free this week. I always hope for news of the Nursing Service from you. Liverpool is its stronghold. I cannot help regretting the present rage for certificates and badges. The certificate does not make the Nurse, nor does the badge distinguish her as to excellence.

Some of our best Nurses are without either. Some of our best could not pass an examination with credit, while some of our worst could gain the most creditable place.

Ever yours,
Florence Nightingale.
March 25/69.
[printed address] 35 South Street,
Park Lane, W.

Sir,

The Lying-Department
at Liverpool Workhouse
has achieved under your
auspices a very enviable
notoriety from its absence
of Puerperal Diseases.
Miss Freeman has been
so kind as to send me
its Statistics for 1868.
She will ask you if it
would be possible for you
to give me - not detailed
statistics but merely
Barnes Eq

1. the total Number of
Deliveries for 1867.
2. the total Deaths among
Puerperal women
and the causes
for the same year.
It would be most important
if you could give me
the same data for a
few years farther back
as e.g. for 1863
1864
1865
1866.
But I scarcely need say
that if you could give
them me for the last ten
years, for which 10 years
I have procured them from many places, (most disastrous in their Statistics, unlike yours) that this would be more important still.

I beg to remain

Sir

Your faithful serv't

Florence Nightingale

- Barnes Esq.

note, f212v, pencil {upside down}

f212v

There they worked me to death in January to do write this on April Fool’s Day

Catch me doing their work again.
Would you not have luncheon } 27/10/76
here? {curly bracket encloses both lines}

My dear Sir
  Could you see Mrs. Swindell who is still
at her own home with your usual kindness?
  And could you also kindly see Widow
Henstock, who is said to have vomited
blood a few days ago?
  [I am very sorry not to be able to see you today
but I am p+ due with my Mother at this hour.]
Perhaps you will kindly write me word how
Mrs. Swindell, Widow Henstock, & the girl Holmes are?
  Yrs v. ffully F. Nightingale

Lea Hurst
Oct 20/76
6. a.m.

My dear Sir
  Your poor (Typhoid) Patient, Mrs. Swindell,
has promised to go to Cromford to her
Sister's to-morrow, Saturday, or Sunday.
She says she has more relish or less disrelish
for the food sent her. But her feet &
ankles have begun to swell: & she does
not seem to gather strength.
  Yr faithful servt
    F. Nightingale
signed letter, f1, pen  {copy of letter above?}

f1
Would you not have luncheon } 27/10/76
here?  {bracket encloses both lines}

My dear Sir
   Could you see Mrs. Swindell who is still
at her own home with you usual kindness?
   And could you also kindly see Widow
Henstock, who is said to have vomited
blood a few days ago?
   [I am very sorry not to be able to see you today
but I am due with my Mother at this hour.]
Perhaps you will kindly write me word how
Mrs. Swindell, Widow Henstock, & the girl Holmes are?
Yrs v. ffully F. Nightingale

Derby, signed letter, 1f, pen

f3
July 12/77

My dear Sir
   Do you wish your Patient's hair to be shaved or
cut short?

Would you say whether he must not leave off
the cotton Jersey next his skin? for if he must
not I must get him some more to change?

I think the new Nurse is a capable woman.
Perhaps you would suggest to her what you
think best about who is to sit up.

Please write me your opinion about the Patient
-& tell me what hour you will come tomorrow.
yrs v. ffully F. Nightingale
Lea Hurst
Cromford: Derby
Aug 22/77

Dear Sir,

1. I understand that Adelaide Peach, the girl with Pericarditis, has bed sores. If this be so, you probably know it. Would you wish her to be put on a Water bed or water pillow: and if so where could either be had?

2. It is said that poor Hitchcock, the man with heart disease, is worse: could you see him to-morrow? - and would you kindly tell him to make his mind easy; for I wish to undertake all that part of his debt to you which can be repaid with money?

in haste  Sincerely yours  [end 6:632]
F. Nightingale

C.B.N Dunn Esq

3. I am told that there is the most abominable drainage smell at `Mount Pleasant' - If the "Nuisance man" would put that to rights, & say the Small Pox arose there, I would gladly be the Scape-goat.

F.N.
My dear Sir

Ad Peach: Could you tell me, besides your opinion of the poor girl, where to get the "powders for the bed sore," which I understand you ordered: & also what to do about getting her a water pillow or bed, if you order the use of one? & generally what to do?

Hitchcock: Is there anything to be done for him? - Is he sinking?

Disinfection: I was told (only yesterday) that a wooden bed-stead, feather bed, feather pillow & bolster & straw mattrass (FN's spelling) were removed out of the lad's room the day or the day after the lad took to his bed with smallpox.

The bedstead is out of doors: the bedding in an empty room behind the Stables.

I am always for being on the safe side, & should have destroyed them, had I known what would you recommend doing now?

Widow Brown was not gone to Cromford this morning.

Please give me your opinion (tho' I know you will laugh) of all the Invalids in all the departments of this house.

Alice: Please also see my Alice Mundy:

here I am sure you will laugh:

[she has become so stout since she has been with me: is not this a sign of weak health in a girl of 22?]

Please send me your Acct, including poor Hitchcock's: I know that we shall never cease troubling you all the time we are here: So it is no use waiting for the end.

F.N.
Lea Hurst
Cromford
Sept. 12/77

My dear Sir
Would you be so good as to see Widow Limb, I believe a former Patient of yours for Rheumatism? If you recommend Buxton for her, I would gladly send her, if there be room for her. [Her husband worked many years for my Father.] When may we see you again here?

ever yrs ffully F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq

Lea Hurst
Oct 10/77

My dear Sir
Andrew Lee's child will go up to St. Thomas' on Friday. The 'board' for it is come: & I will send it to Andrew Lee's to-night. Could you be so very kind as to see the child tomorrow, Thursday, -look at 'board' & child, & tell me whether both will `do'? 2. Is there much the matter with Hitchcock's wife?

in much haste yrs sincerely F. Nightingale

C.B.N Dunn Esq
Andrew Lee's child  
Oct 7/77

My dear Sir

Many thanks: very many

Could you kindly give directions to some one
as to the "small padded board" for the child: -
& charge it to me?

I am ashamed to trouble you: but the parents
are too stupid: & I have no one here that is
clever about these things.

Anent Mr. Bismark:     Is there a Mrs. Johnson? &
if so is she at home, & would she receive him, the
cat? And what is the name of the place?      F.N.

Lea Hurst
Cromford: Derby
Oct. 12/77

My dear Sir

It is good news indeed that
Widow Limb may be able to go to
Buxton this year.
I should be prepared to send her
as soon as you recommend it.

2. This morning I started off `board' & child & Andrew Lee. And I wrote
yesterday to the Surgeon of St. Thomas'
under whose care it is to be:

in haste      yours sincerely
C.B.N. Dunn Esq     F. Nightingale
My dear Sir

I shall be very glad to see you "tomorrow afternoon".

Old Thomas Alison, whom you know, has a sort of redness or breaking out all over his head. I trust it is not Erysipelas. Would you kindly see him tomorrow?

yrs sincerely in haste

F. Nightingale

CBN. Dunn Esq.
And the "Doctor's" opinion very much tallies with your own.
But I should be very much obliged to you if you could now kindly give me an opinion that I could quote to Mr. & Mrs. Shore Smith: [I did five copies of yours written on Oct 1) to the figure-head & to my Mother's maids.) & also if you could kindly remember what you did say to that figure-head: vide 1.
in haste yours very sincerely
F Nightingale

The Lee child is safely & happily housed at St. Thomas' Hospital.
Lea Hurst
Oct 16/77

My dear Sir
For any real good that can be done
while that figure-head is there, you
& I might have spared our pains, & I
my anxiety.
Poor Emma Collins is so ill again that,
having no home, she has been sent off to
the Hospital.
   I expected it: but not so soon.
   This is the second:
We have executed what you kindly ordered

about Peter Cotterill's wife, poor thing -
& are awaiting fresh orders.
Mrs. Swan dined here & went off to her Patient

Have you any orders with regard to
Widow Fern & the poor little Duke?
Yours sincerely
   F. Nightingale

CBN Dunn Esq
Lea Hurst  
Oct 19/77

My dear Sir

I was very sorry not to see you when you so kindly called yesterday: with the Buxton Admn I had the mother of your former Patient, Elizth Holmes, with me.

I conclude that you recommend us to accept "October 31" for Widow Limb's admission to Buxton Hospital. And I have already sent her up word of it. Possibly however you kindly saw her yourself.

I will write to the Secretary unless I hear from you to the contrary accepting,

& asking telling him that the 30/ will be sent by the Patient: When she goes. Probably the information you kindly gave him will enable him to draw up & send a Form of Admission.

I ascertained from Mrs. Holmes what was the difficulty in her daughter's case. The Secretary having mislaid your Medical certificate, owing to the time which had elapsed between its date & that of Admission, they would actually have turned the Patient away, had her Mother not taken her to the Medical Officer's residence & there obtained a fresh Examination & a fresh Order from him.

This would be impossible in poor crippled Widow Limb's case:

Would you therefore be so very kind as to send a separate Medical Certificate or 'Recommendation' by her as the Bearer of it? addressed, as I understand, to the Medical Office

She complains of feeling so very weak: she has her dinner every other day, & pudding the alternate days: (also milk: also Cocoatine) from here: is there anything more we could do? I conclude that you would have ordered any stimulants from here, had you wished it.
**f13av**

*Widow Fern* is very nervous & declares her lungs are fatally affected: I believe this is not at all your opinion. Have the two poor little `Dukes' hooping cough?

I wish she could be cheered up a bit.

*Mrs. Cottrell* seems progressing very well.

Old *Thomas Alison* {Allison?} says "his head is bad:

I could not learn whether you had kindly seen him again:

Any "orders" you give me are "thankfully received

"& promptly attended to". (as Wine-men advertise)

Yrs very ffully

C.B.N. Dunn Esq                     F.Nightingale
Lea Hurst
Oct. 25/77

My dear Sir
I am sorry to say that I have a Patient here for you kindly to come see.
It is my 'Fanny', she seems to have strained something in her heel.
yrs mo. fully
F. Nightingale

CBN. Dunn Esq

Lea Hurst
Nov 24/77

My dear Sir
Would you be so very good as to send some more pills (Aperient, I suppose) for my "Fanny"? - Such as you gave her last: she says she was 'bilious': she has & could not take }
the Cod Liver Oil }
taken all the pills: & lost the box: yrs sincerely (in haste)
F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq
My dear Sir

I heard that Samuel Hitchcock had not lived out the Old Year: One cannot regret that he has another New Year than ours.

I am sure that I owe you many thanks for your kind care of him. I should like to have known whether he was sensible quite to the last: & whether he was ever able to be up.

I was very sorry to hear that good old Allison was failing. I should be very much obliged to you kindly to do all that can be done for him. He is a very old friend of ours: & it was quite pathetic to see him with his grandchildren. I will tell Mr. Yeomans not to spare the money for his diet:

Also: I hope that you will be so good as to attend to Widow Limb: & send her back to Buxton if you think well. Do you think that she ought to have staid there longer?

Elizth Holmes has written to me that she is very grateful for your kind care.

Did the Carbonate of Soda treatment answer with the burn of Wheeldon’s child?

My maid Fanny is much the better for your
last prescription. thank you.
I have enquired as you desired for
Stained Glass Manufacturers
anent a Window for Crich Church
in memory of Mr. Chawner
Morris
Queen Sq.
Bloomsbury
is the one recommended.
If you would like to send
subject required
size of window
& about the sum to be expended
Mrs. Shore Smith would gladly go to
Messrs. Morris, & see what could be
done both as to beauty & economy.
I ought to mention little Lee at St. Thomas Hospital. We have sent to see him several times & sent him toys, of which however there is no lack. They say he looks 2 years bigger, better, stronger & solider than when they saw him, before he went 3 months ago. He is perfectly happy & contented.

The whole ward was dressed up at Christmas: & a musical box, an elephant which would wind up & walk about, a Rocking horse which would hold four children, & various other wonders bestowed on the Ward, delight the little Patients daily. All have scarlet cloaks: Little Lee is always good & never cries. He is kept lying in his cot:
May all New Year's blessings be showered upon you & yours ever yours faithfully Florence Nightingale
Please give my kind regards to Mrs. Swan, if you see her: & ask her to remember her promise to see Mrs. Cottrell & let me know how she is:
I hope Mrs. Swan is well herself.
F.N.

C.B.N. Dunn Esq.
My dear Sir

Thank you very much for your letter about the poor lad, Edwin Bunting, to whom you have been so kind. I hope he will quite recover.

Would you kindly pay a visit to your old Patient, Widow Limb, & if you would think well for her to go to Buxton while the weather is warm & she can be admitted, & you would be so good as to take the trouble to arrange it, I would thankfully pay.

Would you be so good as to send me my Quarter's Acct: & believe me ever yrs ffully

C.B.N. Dunn Esq                      F. Nightingale

My dear Sir

I am extremely indebted to you for your kind account of `the Patients': & most thankful that the boy Bunting will recover entirely, & that Mrs. Bratby is so much better. I hope that you will be able to get Widow Limb into Buxton Hospital again. You have another Patient who is much better & able, I hope, to go out every day. And that is My Aunt at Lea Hurst.

I send a Cheque with many thanks. pray continue your kindness to my Patients.

I am sorry, for her sake, that I have Rose Wren (with the strain & swelling on her arm) back on my hands for Medical advice.

I found her an out Patient of St George's Hospital, & have taken her away & given her good Medical advice.

in haste ever yours faithfully

Florence Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq
Lea Hurst
Cromford, Derby
Aug 13/78

My dear Sir
I have more patients for your kindness:
Old Lyddy Prince complains of her head:
I hope she is not about to have Erysipelas again.
Lizzie Holmes complains of rheumatic pains again.
A poor woman, Mrs. Bromhead, {must mean Broomhead} who has an, I fear, incurable goitre, is suffering so much that I thought I would ask you kindly to try & alleviate her pain.

Young Widow Prince is much the better for your care:
in haste       ever yrs faithfully
F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq
My dear Sir

If, after having seen Mr. Shore Smith's ankle, you think he ought not to go to-morrow, would you kindly tell me as well as him?

2. Jane Alison is a second time in a state of religious mania. She is with her Sister (Mrs. Stone) in Gregory Tunnel. She is very 'bad' at times. Will you be so good as to see her? When you come, she knows that you are watching her & she keeps quiet while you are there. But there is no doubt that she has terrible fits of religious despondency.

The first thing is: if you could certify that she is a fit subject for an Asylum - where she has been once before. Out of respect to her father, Thomas Alison, I would gladly pay for her for a few months. Wherever you thought she had a good chance of cure, whether at Mickleover or elsewhere

3. I hope that you will think well of your Patient, Arthur Cottie.

yrs sincerely

F. Nightingale

CB.N. Dunn Esq
My dear Sir

Many thanks for calling on poor Miss Shardlowe - She says she is better already: I hope you will kindly see her again.

But it is so difficult to know what to do for her. I sent her yesterday a bottle of Port Wine: If you could suggest her anything else? One can hardly send her things as one does to old Widow Gregory: Does the Sister eat them?

Would you be so very kind as to call upon the Sister of Adelaide Peach - who died last year: I am told she is very ill.

Do you think there is any chance of Widow Dolly Prince recovering her eye-sight. She has been ill again with 'flooding': but you have done her much good.

Miss Mochler I am sorry to say is out. She wanted much to see you about some of the Patients: You would not be in this neighbourhood again at 2 to-day to take luncheon with her - or tomorrow - would you? I hope you will take something at all events now - I am just going to my Mother.

Is old Lyddy Prince recovering at all?

Would you be so good as to write me a note & believe me (in haste yrs sincerely
F. Nightingale
My dear Sir

I am so very sorry that Arthur Cottie is gone to Chapel.

His medicine has been finished since Saturday Friday.

If you are making any calls in the village, would you not come back here and have luncheon at 2 o'clock? Miss Irby is here: & Mr. Jowett. & see your Patient too?

Could you tell me what Adelaide Peach's sister ought to have? & what Martha Sheldon's brother, (formerly a Patient of yours) ought to have? He is unable to work - I shall have a long story to tell you about little (spine) Lee whenever I have the pleasure of seeing you.

Yrs sincerely

How is Miss Shardlowe? F. Nightingale

& does she want more wine or &c?
Liverpool Record Office

Derby, signed letter, 3ff, pen

f23

Lea Hurst
Oct 5/78

My dear Sir

I have to apologize for not answering your kind note before: I have been so exceedingly overworked.

Widow Gregory: I have long urged that she should have her bed down-stairs & remain in it: & offered to provide a Nurse.

I have succeeded in providing a Mrs. Dayban to remain with her: but I do not even know whether she stays all night: & I am pretty sure that Widow Gregory's bed is not moved: & that they have not sent for the bed stead (from the Co-ope Store) which I told them they might order on my Acct for the Nurse.

And I have no Miss Mochler to enquire for me for she is gone with my Mother.

Widow Gregory eats well still: do you know that she takes "Gentian Tea for her appetite"?

2. Widow Limb's daughter with the Quinsy?

Is there any different diet you would wish her to have now that it is burst?

She has now only Beef Tea twice a day from us:

f23a

3. Should you think it possible that Widow Broomhead might undergo an Operation in London?

If not, how long is she likely to live, & what, poor woman, will be her end?

4. Widow Peach's daughter is said to be much better under your care:

My Mother & all her belongings have left us:

I stay on for about a fortnight: & shall hope to see you before I leave:

yrs ever faithfully

CBN Dunn Esq

F. Nightingale
Lea Hurst  
Cromford Derby  
Oct 10/78

My dear Sir
Would you be so good as to come & see Lizzie Brooks? I don't suppose there is much the matter: but she complains of pain in the back & chest. & Menstruation should have been a day or two ago & was not. You will smile. I should not be uneasy about her but that she had an extremely sharp fit of Indigestion in London, owing, I am ashamed to say to over-eating & over-drinking & too little work. The Physician who attended her said he had never seen so foul a tongue. And this, the fetid breath & the fetid odour in her bed makes her a rather anxious inmate for me. He strictly forbade Beer, heavy breakfasts & suppers, butter, Pork &c - in short, all that the Kitchen most loves: & put her on a mild nourishing diet with milk &c & Lime Water. And I look after this as much as I can. & by this means keep the enemy, the dreadful smell, in abeyance.
She always struck me: like an animal which has been starved & feeds voraciously.

And I am rather glad to bring her under good Medical care again. [I was obliged to have a Dentist to her in London & put her mouth entirely to rights.]

Excuse haste. & believe me yrs sincerely

CB.N. Dunn Esq  
F. Nightingale

Widow Limb's daughter with the Quinsy says she has caught cold again: I suppose it is only trifling. Poor Mrs. Bromhead [Broomhead] seems sadly suffering: she can hardly lie down, she says, in bed - Widow Gregory I have moved downstairs: according to you
My dear Sir

Is this admission for Elizth Holmes for Oct 16?
& may I trouble you with the Medl Certificate
to be filled up?

Please return me the Card. [It is a pity that the P.O. stamp is
I enclose the Form for Medl Certe. always over the date
of admission.

Could you tell me what you think of Lizzie
Brooks? And shall you be coming to see her again?

May I ask you what you think of Mrs. Broomhead
You will see that I have moved Widow Gregory
down stairs

Could you fix any day & hour this next week after
Monday that you will be coming this way
about 4 or 5 o'clock or 6 that I might
have the pleasure of seeing you?

11/10/78                        F.N.

My dear Sir

In sending for Lizzie Brooks' medicine, might
I ask you if she may go, as she has asked, on
Sunday afternoon to her Mother's "for the Wakes".

I have no reason against it except a
profoundly bad opinion of her Mother:
but I own I should not be sorry if you
thought that she had better not go (medically)

yrs sincerely
F. Nightingale

Lea Hurst
Oct. 11/78
My dear Sir,

Your old Patient, Mrs. Bratby, is looking very ill: she & her husband are thinking of going to Ramsgate for 2 or 3 weeks, if you approve: & if you recommend warm sea water baths for her.

Could you kindly see her within the next day or two? - And would you, among other things, tell me whether she ought to have stimulants? & if so what?

2. Do you sometimes see the boy Bunting who recovered so wonderfully under your care from that accident?

I have an idea sometimes that he is allowed to work too much: & that he wants looking to medically: If you could make a friendly call & charge it to my Acct I should be very grateful.

Thanking you for your kind note & hoping to see you on Tuesday about 4.30, as you were so good as to propose,

believe me yrs sincerely
F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq
My dear Sir

Old Lyddy Prince: I saw her last night: & she expressed the greatest gratitude for your kindness to her. There is some magic medicine of yours (for "palpitations," she says) which she wants to have another "bottle" of: she prays. It would be extremely desirable if she were not to put off any longer applying for parish relief. The Guardians would then compel her 3 sons who can well afford it to do something for her. She has supported herself for 53 years. She does not like to ask you to say whether she is `past work.' But if you could give her your Medical opinion on this point, or even a line of Medical certificate, it would greatly facilitate any application of hers. [I have spoken to Mr. Yeomans as a Guardian]

Widow Limb: would you kindly tell me what is your opinion of her, p

Since I began this, I have had your kind note.: 

Miss Shardlowe: I have my "Forms of recommendation" for the Derby Infirmary: sent me: & only await your orders to fill up one for her:

Mrs. Deebank: Would you be so good as to prescribe for her, if you think she requires

Medical advice & oblige yours very sincerely

F. Nightingale

& CBN Dunn Esq
Miss Shardlow
Cromford: Derby
Oct 25/78

My dear Sir
Would you be so good as to fill in the "Disease"
on the enclosed form, & return it to me?
The Patient is going on Monday early

Mrs. Holmes:
What will happen if she will not submit
to an Operation to the leg?
What will be the Operation? What its magnitude?
Are there any palliative measures which

it is any use trying? for present ease.
I think possibly she might be persuaded
to submit to an Operation if I knew more:
Is there any risk of her losing her leg?

The Sisters Allen:
Could you be so good as to call upon them?
the eldest, Hannah, is suffering from
rheumatism & is generally feeble.
She is an excellent old body but not
very amenable to Medical influences.
in haste
yrs sincerely
F. Nightingale
My dear Sir

Would you be kind enough to look at the boy Herbert Crooks who brings this? He suffers frequently from sick head-aches, & as he is growing very fast, I thought a little of your "magic" might do him good:

---

Elizth Holmes has only just begun to take baths at Buxton: & wishes for another 3 weeks: which with your sanction I will give her?

---

I have failed in my attempt to find a lady Derby, signed letter, 2ff, pen and pencil

My dear Sir

I am due in London on Friday: but I have a troublesome little inflammation in one eye (& for some weeks the other side of my face has been swollen.) I wanted to have some of your excellent advice. & to know whether I ought to make the journey the day after tomorrow, on account of this eye. You will be amused at my sending to you for this trifle. Could you make it convenient to call to-day & if so at what time?

---

Herbert Crooks is quite almost laid up with his chilblains.

---

I had meant to have sent my contribution to the Church Choir at Crich, to which Mrs. Dunn is so kind: Might I trouble you with this contribution (enclosed)? yrs sincerely F. Nightingale

CBN Dunn Esq
My dear Sir

I hope you will be good enough to send me my Acct for the Quarter: & allow me to thank you for all your goodness to our Patients.

I was very sorry to hear of your severe strain but hope that you have quite recovered it: as I have heard from some of the Patients of your presence among them.

Will you be so good as to look after Lizzie Holmes?

I am afraid she is none the better for Buxton.

Confidentially & between ourselves, I have set on foot an enquiry into that abominable place. The master & mistress are leaving (drunk:) And I hope the Nursing will be looked into now.

I hope to hear of good Mrs. Bromhead, {Broomhead} & poor old Gregory {?}, & the Allens & all our other friends.

Little (spine) Lee has been making great progress at St. Thomas’ - & is now gone back to the Ascot Convalescent Home. He is growing quite big.

Our (trained) Miss Machin entered from here on her duties as Matron to grand old St. Bartholomew's on New Year's Day: [& we had placed 2 of our `Sisters' there already] - She has been most graciously received & please God there will be a reform in the Nursing there. But I have warned them to hold their tongues & not to be quoting St. Thomas'-

I have heard the most pathetic accounts of our Princess Alice from the German lady, trained here with us. Who, with 6 nurses, nursed her to the last: & all the family in ye Diphtheria - Princess Alice was always the first in our Hospital Work. [Our Nurses sent a wreath of & Cross of flowers for the grave].

I have been so overworked & ill since I came back
f32av

[Christmas time is no sinecure in seeing of Matrons & Nurses &c &c] that I must beg you to excuse this scrawl.
And with heartiest good wishes for the best of New Years to you & Mrs. Dunn & all the old friends & the dear old place ever sincerely yours
F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq

Derby, signed letter, 8ff, pen

f33

{printed address:} 10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE.W.
Jan 21/79

My dear Sir
I have to ask your pardon for not having written before. The truth is: I came back so much worn out to my usual hard winter's work & pressure of business that I am ashamed to think how much I am in arrear. And the hardest work is that which one does not do - You have, I hope, quite recovered your strain. I was very much obliged to you for writing to me about Lizzie Brooks' mother. I have placed Lizzie in a very good situation at
Bath, not out of my reach, 
but I hope out of reach 
of her mother who harassed 
her continually. Yet I feel 
sorry for her little sister 
& brother at home. And 
I do not think it right for 
the girl to break off entirely 
with her home. She must 
try to be of use to the little 
sister. 
Pray remember me kindly 
to Mrs. Swann: I was sorry 
ot to see her before I left 
Lea Hurst: and pray ask 
her what is become of the 
little girl Cottrell she had a 
year ago a place for: & of the Mother 
whom you so kindly attended.

Good old Lyddy Prince — 
one of the best women I know 
& a sort of Saint — I am 
afraid she is very uncomfortable 
with her sons — they not 
assisting her as they ought. 
Please be so good as to keep 
your eye upon her health. 
I shall be very glad to give 
Dolily Prince the benefit of the 
Nottingham spectacles: I left the money 
with Mr. Yeomans. 
As for Sister Allen, who always 
reminds me of a prophetess of 
the Old Testament,— it is quite 
remarkable to hear her talk 
Scripture — I am overjoyed 
that she is so much better 
under your kind care. Please 
continue it & tell her to 
write to me & say whether 
she has had what I said 
from Mr. Yeomans. 
And is there any particular
diet she ought further to have?
As for Widow Gregory, poor old Soul, if the others are a {illeg} Saint & a prophetess, or something like it, she is an animal or something like it, thinking of her `creature comforts' & of Philip's (the lad ought to be in the Workhouse: he is dangerous).
I am glad her nurse, Deebank, is so much better: she sees well. I suppose after the old body.
Poor Mrs. Broomhead: how patient she is: it is quite beautiful. I should like to have seen her as she wished to see me: but I scarcely can wish her to live another year. Please tell her I always remember her: & continue your kind care. Is there anything else she should have?
Is Miss Shardlowe returned from the Infirmary? She wrote to me from there. But I have not heard from her since. How is she? I am very glad to hear good news of the boy Bunting; & glad that poor old James Foulds is at rest. Mrs Bratby, your Patient, is still at Ramsgate: & doing well. Your little Patient, the spine-child, Lee, is very much better, & gone back to the Ascot Convalescent Home. Please be so good as to look after Lizzie Holmes still: I hope we shall clear out that abominable place at Buxton. But we must do it with quietness & caution. I am afraid Mrs. Holmes has not submitted to you yet. I trust that you will also be so good as to look in from time to time upon poor Widow Peach's daughter & tell me whether she wants for anything more. She has such a hereditary weight of sickness in her. She became wonderfully better under your care. Poor Mrs. Limb: she is such a good woman: so un murmuring. I am very sorry to hear of these heart symptoms: but I hope she may still get better under your care. Please remember me to her.
I hear often from Miss Irby. She has a hard battle to fight. Almost all her fugitives are gone back into Bosnia, without homes, without seed, implements or cattle: food so dear that the Austria money allowance is insufficient quite: dying of hunger & exposure.

The Famine Mortality figures are coming in from India: they are heart-sickening: rather more than 2 millions Deaths in Madras Presidency alone: altogether it will not be short of 3 1/4 millions ascertained Deaths in Mysore & Madras alone: & Bombay & Hyderabad figures yet to come in: perhaps 2 millions more.

But we have distress at home, Leeds & Sheffield & Manchester. Excuse this scrambling letter. I hope that you & Mrs. Dunn are well:

pray believe me ever yours ffully Florence Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq.
March 6/79

10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address:}
PARK LANE.W.

My dear Sir

I am extremely obliged to you for your kind letter, containing news of so many in whom I am so much interested & to whom you are so good.

For Jane Allison's recovery, even tho' only temporary, I am truly grateful to you & to God. That is a case one has unmitigated satisfaction in helping. Thro' no fault of her own, (that I have ever heard of,) she is subject to "special infirmity." And "special infirmity, physical or mental," I think one may help without danger of pauperizing.

But on these & similar points I have often wished to consult you. `Miss Allen' again is a case I commend to you: & do most sincerely thank you for doing her good. They are two Sisters doing their best to keep their home together (notwithstanding infirmity & defective sight) for each other by needlework whilst they can. They are the very reverse of paupers: & they are educated much above the average & have higher tastes than mere drinking & eating.

Mrs. Henstock is an industrious woman, an active but
f34a

mismanaging Mother &
not very truthful. Are
"spiritualists" people who
believe in those disgraceful
`rapping' impostures? I did
not know this mean & incredible
superstition had reached
Holloway: but, if it has, am
not surprised that the
Henstocks are of it. She
is a person whom I am too
glad to help 1st to your valued
Medical advice: also to going a Convalescence
to the sea, & to a Sewing
Machine,- to enable her to
help herself. But giving
little doles to her & others
is a thing which has much
troubled my conscience &
which I have often wished
to consult you about.
I fear I have made some
beggars at Holloway, while

f34av

conscientiously desirous
to avoid it.                      [13:285]

Lizzie Holmes: I am so
thankful to hear is better:
There is no danger of
making the Holmes beggars.
They not only do not beg,
they give.
Besides, I always feel I
owe Lizzie Holmes something
- for I am afraid I only
made her worse by that
abominable place Buxton,
- did I not?
Restoration to health is a
thing, I hope, one need never
feel afraid of being made
into a pauperizing agent.       [end]

note

14/3 I should say, with regard to
the 'Spiritualists,' that I have
enquired, & I find they hold forth,
in the name of a "deceased Doctor,"
against intemperance!! They might
{this line is cut off. Her signature might be under it as well since she
Liverpool Record Office 250

has sent across to bottom of f34 for CBN Dunn Esq
Liverpool Record Office 251

Derby, unsigned letter, f35a labelled Private & confidential, 4ff, pen

f35

April 12/79

{printed address:} 10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE.W.

My dear Sir
    I hasten to send you a
    Cheque for your Qy Acct for
    the people to whom you are
    so kind & to thank you for
    your kindness.
    I venture to ask you to be
    so good as to give £2.2
    (which I have added to the
    Cheque) to Mr. Acraman for
    his School subscription, for
    which he wrote to me. I
    must apologize both to you
    & to him for this unceremonious
    way of doing it. It is only the
    severe stress of overwork & illness

f35v

    which compels me to economize
    every line I have to write.
Poor Widow Limb & Broomhead
- I feel so very sorry for
them. Will you when you
see Mrs. Broomhead again
thank her for her letter:
And will you kindly tell
Mrs. Limb how much I
should like to hear from
her thro' Rose, who ought
to be able to write now?
    I am thankful that widow
Merchant's daughter is so
much better thro' your kindness.
And will you kindly tell her
to write too & say how she is?
    And the same as to Widow
Peach's daughter.
Private You ask me about Buxton & Confidential Hospital Nursing. I have tried various ways to have it cleared up & cleared out, chiefly thro' ladies who I was astonished to find knew of its abominations before - did nothing then & as far as I know have done nothing now.

Except that in December I believe the Master & Mistress were dismissed for drinking.

I have now appealed to the Duke of Devonshire: & I hope that something may be done.

but this is of course strictly between ourselves.

The D. of Devonshire had much better appear to be acting from himself: without mentioning me. But I really pray that the enquiry may be rightly conducted, & not made a blunder of.

I am such an old 'hand' & I know what blunders may be made by the best intentions not practically acquainted with Hospital Nursing.
My dear Sir
You are so occupied, & I am
so occupied that I scarcely
like to say:-how little intercourse
we have now about our poor
Patients!
But I venture to trouble you
now with some questions about
some of them: for whom I am anxious.
I have also this reason that
Mrs. Yeomans has most
kindly done the cooking for
poor good widow Broomhead
& for poor old widow Gregory
ever since I left Lea Hurst
And she cannot be expected
to go on cooking for them always.
She has never complained of the
trouble But Mr. Yeomans & I have

both suggested that she should
stop. And had I not been
cast down & overwhelmed with
work, I should have written
to you before to take your wishes
with regard to these poor people.
My aunt, Miss Julia Smith,
is now, as you know, at Lea Hurst.
And she is very kind to some of
them. And spring is come at last.
She & Mr. Yeomans thought
that it was time now "to stop"
altogether with poor old Gregory:
except what she will have from
Lea Hurst, where we shall too
probably, if it please God, succeed
my Aunt.
Do you approve of this?
And would you wish her (Gregory)
still to have her allowance of Brandy from Mr. Yeomans (which has been continued ever since a year or last autumn)?

People are strongly of opinion that this should be discontinued. What do you say?

Widow Broomhead
I am afraid she is a great sufferer & so good & patient.
Is she near her end?
I feel that I cannot longer ask Mrs. Yeomans to cook for her. But I should be truly obliged to you to tell me what she really requires: occasionally or regularly if necessary.
And this she shall have.
She has also an allowance of Brandy: & shall continue to have it, if you order it.

[Indeed, as you know, I never give Brandy without your orders]
I am sure you continue your kind care of this poor woman.
She is on cocoatina.
So is old Gregory:

Widow Limb
how is she?
I am afraid you think very badly of her prospects:
she is a good & most patient sufferer.
Would you kindly also tell me what she really requires?
And she shall have it.
She is on 2 lbs. Meat weekly:
Cocoatina, Milk &c.
Her sons are very good to her.
Widow Peach's daughter:
how is she?
She has 2 lbs of meat weekly:
milk &c
would you kindly tell me what you wish for her?

Martha Sheldon
I understand is very ill:
If she requires something occasionally, would you kindly
Liverpool Record Office

tell me what would be best

{D25462/237 1}
without further `order.'
But if she requires another
`letter of admission'
from me, I will send you
one for her.
Poor soul: it is a painful
case in many respects.
Jane Allison
Mr. Yeomans has written about her to
me, & your opinion of her: &
that he thinks she should
go back to Mickleover.
I have written to him that
this is a thing for you to
determine.
But one trembles to think
what she might do at home.
And it is very bad for the
little grand-child, the eldest,
to see her.
I had a great respect for

the old man, her Father.
And I have told Mr. Yeomans
that I would tell you that, if
you thought it would give her
a better chance to try her at
home say for a month with
a Nurse, & if you could
recommend a proper Nurse,
I would pay her.
But it must remain with
you; [I cannot say I have
ever made an arrangement
of that kind to compare
with the care of a good Asylum.]
I am most truly sorry for
the case. The old man was
a sort of patient humble hero
in his way: at once independent
minded & tender hearted.
Lydia Prince
I have told Mr. Yeomans to
allow her the 2 oz Brandy a day.
Lydia Prince is one of the most difficult cases one has to deal with (I do not mean in your kind Medical attendance which I hope will never fail her: & would you order her Brandy of Mr. Yeomans, if she needs it)

Her sons were so good as to inform me, thro' Mr. Yeomans, when I was at Lea Hurst, that they `did not do anything' `for her, because I did'. And it is true: I put money into Adam Prince's mouth to drink by helping his mother.

Yet the old lady will not apply for parish relief: which is the only way, I suppose, of summoning the sons?

I am trying to make some arrangement for her with Mr. Yeomans. She is a case constantly on my mind.

She is a splendid old lady: and I cannot bear that she should want. While to spend money in making that vagabond Adam more of a vagabond is a sin.

Please continue, if you will be so good, as to attend Old Lyddy.

Thank you for your kindness to that poor old creature Gregory.

Mrs. Bratby is come back from Ramsgate. Would you kindly look in upon her sometime?
f37

May 30/79

{printed address:} 10, SOUTH STREET, PARK LANE.W.

My dear Sir

Thank you very much for your kind letter. I have written to Mr. Yeomans your orders about the sick. These Deaths from Typhoid are shocking beyond measure. Because Typhoid means bad drainage. I trust that you will be successful in your War: & I hope that Mr. Yeomans will help you.

You say that poor Mary Shardlow "hopes to go to the Infirmary." I enclose an Order, which please fill up. If there is any difficulty in paying for her going, Yeomans will pay:

Excuse haste: ever yrs ffully

F. Nightingale

CBN Dunn Esq
My dear Sir

Very many thanks for your very kind note.

I am writing in haste to say if you could do anything for poor Mary Shardlow on my account, I should be very much obliged to you. [I do not know on whose account you are attending her] And if you wish to order her Port Wine or anything of that sort for me, please do so.

If you will kindly let Miss Mochler know, she will provide it. I am writing to her by this post to say so.

Poor woman - no one can wish for her life. But I am

sure that anything to spare her suffering, you will do.

I rejoice to hear that the little girl Peach is making such progress.

I am shocked that there should be Typhoid in "the Cottage". Cannot you make them close the Wingfield School?

in great haste

yrs sincerely

F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq
f38b

My Diphtheria case went convalescent
into the country on Saturday
Nobody else had it, thank
God.
But it is a long story
which I must tell you
later.

Derby, signed letter without salutation, 2ff, pencil

f39

1
I am very sorry that I could
not see you to-day.
I have been so ill since I
came down: & I have 3
interviews for to-day.
1. You know that Harriet Limb
has Typhoid Fever. Is there
anything more that we should
do for her? She has Soda Water
from us.
2. Could you also kindly see
Widow Broomhead & say
whether there is anything we
should send her? - she does
not much like her present
medicine, I hear. And
do you wish her to have any
more Brandy? She has
only 4 oz. every 4th day now.
And is she in a condition to
come & see me, if I sent the

f39a

fly for her?
3. Also: What do you think
of little Platt, Alison's
grand-child?
What do you think this
new case of Typhoid due
to?
I hope to see you soon
  F. Nightingale

24/8/79
C.B.N. Dunn Esq
Lea Hurst
Aug 31/79

My dear Sir
Might I ask you to come & see my sister's lady's maid who has sprained & hurt her foot? above where the toes spring & underneath the foot - She is a Swiss. I hope you will be able kindly to have luncheon here Some day while she Lady Verney, is here perhaps to-day:

2. I hope that you think Harriet Limb going on quite well: & may she have any thing else besides soda water & milk? And how is the poor mother? How I wish you could find out the exact whereabouts of the bad water & bad drainage, which are in fault.

Can you ascertain what was the water which Harriet Limb had been drinking?

3. Dolly Prince, I believe, has been suffering much from `flooding'. Could anything be done for her? by Medical advice -

4. The boy Bunting, - whom you brought through so serious an accident last year - What do you think of him? Is he likely to be strong enough ever to do a man's usual work? Or should he be a Pupil Teacher, or something of the sort? & afterwards a Schoolmaster?
5. A Mrs. Rawson
   of Higham
   near Alfreton
   -Aunt to my Lizzie Brooks-
   has been 7 years ill with
   "bad knees": She "can't stand"
   except on crutches: the
   description L.B. gave me of
   her is: "her knee-caps are
   under her knees:" She has
   been at the Lea Water (cure?)
   place, which "did her no good."
   She is extremely anxious,
   L.B. tells me, to go to
   some London Hospital.
   She is said to have been a
   Patient of yours.
   Could you kindly tell me
   whether you recommend any
   thing of this kind to be done?
   I mean, sending her anywhere for
   treatment?

6. Poor Widow Broomhead:
   She thinks you have ordered
   her 2 oz. Brandy a day,
   whereas you told me 1 oz.
   Please say which:
   Also: whether you think
   her able to come & see me,
   if I send the fly for her.
   - She does not seem to know
   what to decide.

7. Also: Martha Sheldon wants
   her brother to have an admission
   as Out Patient to the Derby Infy.
   What do you think of this?

8. Lastly: does the little Platt
   (Alison's grandchild) want
Lea Hurst
Sept. 7/79

My dear Sir
Thank you for your kind note very much.
As to the Limbs:
I am most thankful that they are going on well under your kind care.
But do you not think it very bad for the two sisters, one convalescent & one very ill of Typhoid, to lie in the same bed: & both in the same room with the mother?
We had provided a bed at Widow Brown's, where Mrs. Swann could have undisturbed sleep.

C.B.N. Dunn Esq

in the afternoon: While Mrs. Brown could waited on her Patients.
But we find that the three Patients are all in the same room: the two Fever cases in the same bed: While Mrs. Swann occupies the smaller room which used to be occupied by husband & wife - Would you kindly remedy this in the way you think best?
We are sending Clear Soup without vegetables (what we make for my Mother) to Harriet Limb, according to your orders: & milk & soda water to the married Sister.
Would you be so very kind as to write to me any orders about these poor bodies' diets? We send only 2 lbs Meat weekly, Milk & Cocoatine to Widow Limb, & Beef Tea: Should she have any thing else? & should Harriet Limb have Mutton Broth? I am glad that Mr. Wildgoose undertakes the Medical advice for Harriet Limb. But you must allow me to undertake the rest. x Harriet Limb has been given to understand from the Mill that she would be allowed half pay during her illness: I hope this was not done without Mr. Wildgoose's knowledge. You see he says he did not [cut off]
I feel so uneasy about the Holloway drainage that I lie thinking of what we ought to do. It has been suggested to me from London: "have you no District Medical Officer of Health to apply to?" But he is Dr. Gaylor: is he not? Then I am advised to "write & invoke the aid of Mr. Sclater Booth, & ask him to send an Inspector to look at our village." "The Local Govt Board always delight to interfere if they can get a chance."

What do you think?
And what was the drinking water which Harriet Limb & her Sister were using?

10, SOUTH STREET,
      PARK LANE. W.  {D25462/242}
My dear Sir
Pray let me thank you
for your two kind notes.
And first about the
Limbs:
I am very thankful that the
married Sister's attack you
consider a slight one:
& I heard yesterday that
both were downstairs but
that you considered Harriet
the stronger of the two.
I am sure that you will
tell me what Diet you
wish for them. Hitherto
neither Sister has had
anything from here but
Clear Soup or Beef Tea.

Shall you wish either of
them to go by & bye to
a Convalescent Hospital?
About the water in their
well which I believe you
& I are anxious to have
analysed: You mention
Dr. Gaylor's having undertaken
to do so (from this well):
What I understood was
- that Dr. Gaylor, having emptied
(? washed out) a quart
bottle, which had
contained beer or wine,
& filled it with water
from Mr. Yeomans' pump
- that he took it home &
forgot it - that his
servant or Assistant
found it & said: 'Here
is something, Sir, which
Stinks Awful': & threw
it away.
That Dr. G. thereupon went
to Mr. Yeomans, & told
him that his water was
'unfit for human consumption.'
The terror spread thro' the
village: & Mrs. Bratby
wrote to me (in London)
a terror-struck letter.
that Dr. G. was afterwards
pressed upon this point,
& retracted: (to Mr. Yeomans),
- still maintaining however
that the water was not
good, which I dare say is
quite
true.
Now what we want is, is
it not? to have the water
properly analysed.
Upon receiving your last note,
I wrote to Mr. Shore Smith
in London about this -
I have not yet heard
from him.x And I rather
regret not having written
to the Army Sanitary
Commission in London
(With which I have to do)
about analysing the water.
What do you recommend?

xI have just heard from Mr. Shore Smith.
He says: does "Dr. Dunn know of any
one 'handy', who would do it roughly, to
see if there is enough to cause anything
like the Typhoid?"
Something must be done, I suppose.
Private Lea Hurst
(across corner) Sept 20/79
My dear Sir
First of all, let me thank you very much for your Analysis of the Limbs' Well water: I wrote without losing a moment by the same mornings' post to Mr. Shore Smith giving him your information & asking what was to be done. He answered that he would write to Mr. Yeomans, & if the well belonged to the estate, it should be cleaned & the top made so that no dirty water could run into it. He fancies that the excess of Chlorides is from dirty water coming into it: but, he says, "a dirty pail or pan will poison the best water more than a good deal trickling into a well." But may not there be percolation from some privy or cesspool into the well? That is the commonest cause. As Mr. S.S. says: "if this is the cause it is satisfactory to have found it out & I should not anticipate any difficulty in making it right." But I am afraid the Limbs' cottage does not belong to the estate: I think it belongs to Buxton.
What is to be done? What is the regular course to pursue in such matters? Perhaps you have had it done already.

2. How soon do you think we may let Miss Mochler or any one from here go with safety to the Limbs? or let Nurse Swann (I presume she is still there Nursing) come to speak to us here? And should the 2 Sisters go to some Convalescent Home? They have had meat & eggs every day from here: May they have puddings & the like? & do you wish any thing more for them? Port Wine or any stimulant?

3. I saw the little Allison or rather Platts today. She still looks very delicate. Should you object to her going to School say 3 afternoons in the week? now - I think you have quite made a cure of her aunt, Jane Allison.

4. I have to ask you about a thing which I have not spoken of to any of our household for fear of alarming them: we are obliged to have Fish 3 or 4 times a week from Belper, for my Mother, because she
does not always like the Matlock fish. Last week it missed & the next day the son of the Fishmonger, Mee, came over himself bringing fish & rabbits & saying that his father had died the day before of "Brain fever." Pitying the poor widow who wrote to ask for our custom, I have gone on having fish & fowls from her. But Mr. Yeomans has now to-day informed me that it was not "Brain Fever" but "Scarlet Fever."

As the harm was done, I said nothing to any body. Do you think there are any precautions we could take now? Or do you think I should have nothing more from them at present? We have fish in the house & fowls & rabbits at this moment from them. But we I should create such an alarm if I had these destroyed. And the Son was talking in the house a considerable time the day after the father's death with the cook & my Fanny.

It is every little detail falling upon me which keeps me so prostrate.
5. I have had a letter from the Rawsons of Higham speaking with great hope of what you are {written over-top of were} doing for her knee -
6. There is a poor young man named Walker whom you attend (haemorrhage from the lungs,?) - Miss Mochler met him walking out again yesterday. Should you like to send him to the Infirmary in order to compel him to keep quiet?

Pray believe me
Yours very sincerely
F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq.
Lea Hurst
Sept 27/79

My dear Sir,
I am extremely obliged to you for obtaining that nice support for poor Mrs. Broomhead, which is a great relief to her, & a great success. Might it be included in your Michaelmas Acct, which please send me at your earliest convenience?

2. The discovery of possible percolation of pigs' filth into the Limbs' well fills me with pleasure: Because that can at least be stopped.
I have said nothing about Mrs. Swann leaving them. You will kindly say when you think her services can be dispensed with.
Can nothing more be done for the poor Mother, who appears to be in a most distressing state?
I am most thankful that the daughters are making such a good recovery.
I wrote what you said about the well & the pigs to Mr. Shore Smith.
3. Mr. Yeomans had a "severe bilious attack" last Sunday tho' he was out again in a day or two.
[I was quite frightened, thinking it was Fever.]
Do you think that may have been a result of his pump?

4. Have you heard anything more of Scarlet Fever in poor Mee's family at Belper?
I kept my own counsel, but quietly dropt having anything more from his shop: according to your advice.
Do you think I should be safe now in dealing with them,

or had I better just drop it?
We cannot get any rabbits for Mrs. Nightingale at Matlock. But she will be going at the end of this week back to London.
I am interrupted every moment, so must just close this disjointed note & ask you to believe me
Yrs sincerely
F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq
I have no very good account of poor little Lee's deformity to give you when I have the pleasure of seeing you:

F.N.
Widow Limb: Lea Hurst
Oct 4/79

My dear Sir
I saw Nurse Swann
yesterday (Friday) & she
described poor Mrs. Limb
as in such a state that
I told her to stay with
her till tomorrow or Monday.
Doubtless you saw her,
Mrs. Limb, today.
Do you think that a
Water bed or Water cushion
would be of any use to
her?
And do you not think
the Stove in her room
might be lighted with
advantage?

Mrs. Swann says that
she is so in want of air &
the stove so near the bed
that she is afraid to light
it. But surely a
fire & an open window
produce the best air:
& perhaps her bed could be
moved. Half the battle
is in arranging or 'nursing'
the Sick room by the
District Nurse so as to
give the poor Patient a
chance.
What are these spasmodic
fits of gasping for breath?
And are they dangerous to life?
Poor woman: She is so terrible
a sufferer that she puts us all
to shame by her patience.
James (or Henry) Foulds:
the son of the old man
whom you kindly attended till
his death last year
has sent in a very piteous
claim for assistance.
He says he has been 10 months
in bed: that he wants
nourishment: that you
will tell all about him as
his kind Doctor:
that you ordered him
beef tea & lamb
and a sea voyage.
that he cannot get any of these
things.
that if his strength could be got
up by nourishment, he would
like to go to Liverpool as
being `sea' air.
I should be very much
obliged to you if you would
tell me what you
recommend.
And do you know whether
he used to work at the
mill? & whether he has
an allowance from there?
[I must not get into disgrace
with Mr. Wildgoose, as
I did about the father,
James Foulds, last year.]
Thank you for your account
of Sarah Allison. I have
sent her the diet you
desired & some Cocoatine.
It appears she is very fond
of Coffee: but Coffee is
not usually fond of persons
with weak digestions.
Lea Hurst  
Cromford  
Oct 16/79

My dear Sir  
Could you be so very good  
as to have a Water-bed hired  
or ordered at once for Mrs.  
Limb, & send me the Acct?  
I am giving you this trouble,  
but I hardly know where  
one is to be had.

You will judge how exceedingly concerned I am at Mrs.  
Britland's death from such a cause. It is not the 'visitation  
of God.' I wrote at once to Mr. Yeomans: he lays the  
blame on the husband, for whom "to send word when the  
new drain was ready" they were waiting. He says he  "cannot see how there could  
be any stench from the new drain." "there might be a stench from the cess. pool."

I think I understood you to say  
that it was from a "sink-stone."  
I wish there were inquests upon Deaths from these causes.  
Is the other abomination of a pig removed from the Limbs' well?  
in greatest haste  
Yours sincerely  
F. Nightingale

CBN Dunn Esq
Lea Hurst
Oct 25/79

My dear Sir
Would you be so good as to look at my maid Fanny, who appears to be suffering severely from Indigestion? It is not her fault in this case: but when I am in charge of 3 households, as I have been here every year, & especially this year, I am obliged in some measure to "do at Rome as Rome does" - And these London servants insist upon meat 3 times a day: a hurried meal of heavy meat at one: & a heavy meal of meat & pudding at nine p.m.

But what was her fault is: that she has been allowing her bowels to be irregular: that she has been very sick: & that yesterday she took without telling me the medicine of another maid who had been suffering from some thing else, & to whom I had given Medical attendance from another gentleman in London. I really should have thought my Fanny had had more sense. She asked me to let her have your Magic medicine, of which you kindly sent me the Prescription for her in London.
I believe it was Steel with effervescence. But I was & always am unwilling to have old Prescriptions used without the Prescriber seeing the Patient again. [I should not be sorry if it were made 'illegal' to "make up" a Prescription say six weeks after date, unless directions for so doing were entered upon the Prescription.] Would you be so very good as to lay down directions for Fanny: as to meat & drink: as to what aperients & what medicines you would prescribe for her under what circumstances & to allow me to have the

Prescriptions when we return to London? And if she may have the Medicine she wishes for, so much the better.
My dear Sir

I am sorry that I shall not have the pleasure of seeing you today, as you are so good as to come. For I have 'company'! the Sisters Allen.

2. I have been applied to to assist a family, named Wall, the Wheelwright's. The poor woman, it seems, has been under your care, & has had a wonderful operation (I can't exactly make out what) performed at the Nottingham Women's Hospl, where

she had to pay 10/a week. Perhaps you would kindly tell me what is the 'case': whether this payment is true so: & whether they want money-help (which one does not like much giving in that form.) [The two Nottingham Infies are have Matrons of our training.]

3. It occurs to me to ask: has your kind attendance on Lady Verney's maid been acknowledged? If not, please send in the Acct to me:
4. Do you remember a Nurse Charrier, from the Derby Nurses' Home, who nursed that poor fellow who died here of Smallpox? She has written to me (to ask for a 'Testimonial') from some place in Devonshire. She does not say whether she has left the Derby Institution. I never do give 'Testimonials:' She ought to ask & one of the Instn - But could you advise me?

Kindly tell me what you think of Fanny:

yrs ffully F. Nightingale

Derby, signed letter, 4ff, pen

Lea Hurst
Nov 8/79

My dear Sir

Very many thanks for your kind trouble in the matter of the Buxton Hospital. I am not a "subscriber": & have positively declined to be so, until the Nursing arrangements (which have been unparalleled in England for badness) are put into permanent good order. The way I managed for Mrs. Limb & Lizzie Holmes was by paying 10/6 a week for each, which became last year 12/ a week. & I am
not quite sure that it has not been farther raised to 14/: but believe it is 12/.
These are the ordinary terms for non-subscribers.
I beg to enclose a Cheque for {pound sign} 4.4: Which will be 3 weeks each for Elizth Bunting & Mrs. Gladwin at 14/ if that is the amount. If not the 6/ each I dare say will be acceptable for the journey.
I do not know whether Mrs. Gladwin is bed-ridden.
I conclude that you are

satisfied that the Nursing for HELPLESS Patients is now what it ought to be. For, if you remember, persons who were able to shift for themselves were very well satisfied with their treatment, even while the bed-ridden ones were suffering the abominations we know of. [And the person who gives his name to the Hospital told me distinctly this when I appealed to him in London.] do you not think that if Elizth Bunting has relatives in Buxton, she had better reside with them, & be an Out: Patient?
I should be glad to hear what you have kindly done for poor old Mrs. Joseph Smith (of Lea): & whether it was a case of Paralysis & difficulty about the Urine. My Fanny is much better. She fancies there was much Stronger Acid in your last Medicine. I shall be very glad if you will kindly direct What she is to do in London. She is hoping for the Effervescing Steel.

Pray believe me ever yours sincerely
Florence Nightingale

Lea Hurst
9/11/79

My dear Sir
I am so very sorry that all the birds are flown. My Fanny is at Church with a note from me to you: Mrs. Francis with her, with Francis’ empty bottle - Francis is, I take it, at chapel. He is somewhat better. But I should like you to have seen both Francis & Fanny. You will find my note when you go home. To it I would add: Harriet Limb has promised
me to `put into' the "Women's Club:' I presume
she must be "passed" by you - Could you
kindly, when you call upon her mother, keep
Harriet up to the mark, & do about "passing" her
whatever you judge right? Could you kindly tell
me what you think about the old lady,
Joseph Smith's wife?

These last days rather knock me up:
yrs sincerely
F. Nightingale

My dear Sir
I present my Fanny to you
-her appetite & strength seem
to me very variable. What
do you wish her to do next?

2. I am trying hard to get these village people here, whose money all goes in dress & drink, to SAVE. I hope my "Converts" may be "enthusiasts."
Last night Mrs. Shardlow (the widow, a most industrious woman, whose daughters are making a comfortable weekly income at the Mill) promised me that her eldest,

CBN Dunn Esq
Sarah Ellen, should become a member of the Women's Club, if you will "pass" her. The mother told me that the father, having died of Asthma (?), she did not think you would admit the daughter into the Club, & that "it would hurt her feelings so," if you were "to examine her & not "pass her." This was, I suppose, a mere excuse. But I only congratulated her on her willingness, & said that I would ask you for her. Lizzy & Lyddy (who is almost a dwarf) were Shardlow were, at School, little friends of mine - And I would give a great deal if they could be brought up with other notions than dress. Pray help me.

3. Francis, the Gardener, is better: he wants more medicine. He will go away on Friday for a week when we are gone. When you said he was "just the man to have Epilepsy,"- would you kindly tell me what are the symptoms of a susceptibility to those attacks?

4. About the supposed drain under Vincent Greatorex' floor: Mr. Yeomans tells me
that the "drain goes quite the other way"
& "never went under the floor" -- & that Greatorex himself "always said that "he got the Typhoid Fever at the mill."
As for this latter assertion, it means nothing: I knew a gentleman who, with a cess pool under his Drawing room, & 3 children dying of Typhoid, declared they got it in the Park!
But do you think I ought to try & insist that 2 or 3 paving-stones should be taken up to see IF there is any foulness under Greatorex' floor?
in haste ever faithfully yrs
F. Nightingale
Lea Hurst  
Nov 14/79  
5. am. 10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address}  
PARK LANE. W

My dear Sir  
In bidding you farewell  
for the present, I have some  
circumstances to mention  
about our common protégés.  
Alfred Peach was drunk  
on Saturday.  
Adam Prince was ill in  
bed on Wednesday: I have  
no reason to think that  
there was any drinking:  
Walker is spitting blood.  
Mrs. Bromhead's daughter  
at home I am persuading  
to put into the Women's  
Club. Please add her to  
those whom you will "pass"  
if you can.  
Do you know that Mrs.  
Limb's son is to be married  
at Christmas, & that then  
the newly married wife  
will take charge of  
her mother in law, Widow  
Limb, & that Elizth Sims  
will leave?  
I have induced Lizzie Holmes  
not to go to work till  
next Friday.
I shall follow your directions about my Fanny:
She says she "has no indigestion except when she eats:" that is rather a bad state of affairs. I think you were kind enough to propose sending me the prescription for her Pills, if you wish her to continue them.

With every best wish for your highest success
pray believe me in great haste ever yrs faithfully
F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq

Derby, signed letter, 8ff, pen {postscript probably added in pencil}

My dear Sir
I am very much obliged to you for your report of our Patients.
1. I am thankful to hear that Mrs. Limb is so well attended to under the new régime & so much less suffering. I know you will be so kind as to enquire after Rose Limb (morally not physically) when you visit the mother. This child, for I think she is only 12, declared that if she did not like her new sister-in-law, she should leave the house & set up
for herself elsewhere. [This is the harm the Mill does - girls of 13 think they owe no allegiance, if they can earn their own bread] If this fit of rebellion has, as I earnestly trust, passed away, I would not revive the possibility of her doing such a thing. Rose Limb is frightfully spoiled. Tho' she is put to school at no expence to them, she is allowed to go or not as she pleases. I know you will kindly ask what she is doing. [The girls at Holloway are a heavy anxiety: so much dress: so little putting by money: or even mending their own clothes. Many a girl who begs of me spends more money on herself not only relatively, but and in a few instances absolutely, than I do.] I hope Harriet Limb has entered the Women's Club: & is paying besides a monthly sum into Mr. Yeomans' hands for the P.O. Savings Bank (which I double.)

2. Widow Broomhead. I am grateful for your care of her. It is, I suppose, wonderful how she lasts on amid such suffering. Pray order her anything you think right. The day before I came away she asked me for some flannel. It was impossible for me to send for it then: but I
f53av

took the opportunity of
telling her that she
might order it for herself
& send the bill to Mr.
Yeomans, on condition that '
her daughter entered the
Women's Club & that her son
(who earns 22/ a week)
would put money into Mr.
Yeomans' hands, which I
would double.

I have heard since that
she did not get the flannel,
because it was not to be
had at the Co-ope Stores.
Surely this is very helpless.
Could not a neighbour get
it for her at Cromford or
Matlock?
Pardon my troubling you
with these details.

f53b

2

3. Hannah Allen: I am very
   sorry that my old friend,
   the Prophetess, is so ill again.
   She has 2 lbs of meat a week
   from me: besides milk & cocoatine, some money
   & other things. And I obtained for her from the Mill a
   pension of 3/ a week.
   But if you think other things
   requisite, please let me know.
   And please tell me if the
damp in the house is really remedied.
   I am very glad Ann is so
   much better, thanks to you.

4. Lizzie Holmes: I suppose,
   will never be strong again.
   I am thankful she is better.
   Her mother is one of the
   very best women I know
   of any where.
Most glad am I to hear of the improvement in Buxton Nursing. Could you tell me who is the present Matron? & where from?

I trust that the Water Supply will be obtained. Is the pig extinct near Mrs. Limb's well? Would you kindly remember me to Mrs. Swann & tell her I have not succeeded (I hardly expected it) in finding Patty Cottrell a suitable place - I hope she has -

for Mr. Wildgoose has promised in that prospect not to take her on at the Mill.

I am giving you much trouble I have been so ill & overworked since I returned to London that I must ask you kindly to take this too true apology for my not writing.

I hope Mrs. Bratby is better for the removal of the abominable cess pit overflow. Is she thinking of Ramsgate?

Pray believe me my dear Sir with kind regards to Mrs. Dunn, if I may be allowed
f53cv
to send them
  ever yours faithfully
       Florence Nightingale
Like a woman, I have two or
3 P.S.S.:
poor old Widow Gregory: I suppose
  she is not gone to the Union?
Adam Prince: is he keeping
  sober?
Alfred Peach I am afraid
to ask after:
       F.N.
C.B.N. Dunn Esq
I cannot say my Fanny is much better.
She has taken your 'Nux Vomica' pills & your
Bismuth (Granular) & Iron when I reminded her
B Her digestion, if she is very careful of what she
eats, is better. But she is weak, especially
in the back: & complains of pain in the back
when she stoops.       F.N.

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 8ff, pen and pencil

f54
Little Lee:          10 South St.
                   Park Lane W.
                   Feb 21/80          [12:328-29]

My dear Sir
  I have been & am very
anxious about little Lee,
who, as you know, has been
vibrating between St. Thomas'
Hospital, & Ascot Convalescent
Home, according as his
Medical advisers thought
it best for his health.
  I truly believe that, if
he had been the heir to
£80000 a year, he
could not have had
greater advantages than
he has had for health -
poor little man -
perhaps not so great.
f54v
I saw the "Mother Superior" of Ascot (she served under me throughout the Crimean War) a short time ago. She described the boy as much stronger, happier, very intelligent & a great pet: but she wished him to return for a time to St. Thomas', as she thought he must need Surgical attendance. The deformity was not decreasing but increasing. He was accordingly re-admitted under Mr. Croft, who has been his 'Visiting Surgeon' from the first at St. Thomas'.

f54a
At St. Thomas' he was described by the Sister as much better & brighter: & as "chatting away": But at my request Mr. Croft has sent me his case: in the following words are his: "You will be sorry to learn that little Lee has now a very large abscess connected with the disease of the spine. This makes the case much more serious. The parents ought to know that the chances of recovery are less than they were. This must have been
"collecting for months &
his fretfulness & wan looks
must be attributable to
it." Signed J. Croft.

"Feb 18."

When you are going Lea=
way, could you be so
very kind as to inform
the parents of little Lee,
because you will be able
to answer their questions
as a Medical Authority:
& neither unduly to
frighten them nor to
flatter their hopes. The
last time the poor child
was at St. Thomas', Mr.
Croft told me, (& I think
I mentioned this to you),
at Lea Hurst last year,

that, while he considered
the child much stronger,
he thought abscesses likely
to form. I believe he
thought him incurably
scrofulous: but Ascot
has been for him the very
best air he could have.
I think the "fretfulness"
to which Mr. Croft alludes
must have been very
temporary. For I have
cross-questioned the `Sisters'
in charge: & all describe
him as a peculiarly happy
child. He is quite `master'
at Ascot: & he objects to
another little Patient being
called "little man." "He is only
a little boy: I am the little man."
Mrs. Limb & Mrs. Broomhead, wonderful women, I am thankful to hear are improving rather than the reverse: This must be due to your kind care.

Please remember me to them when you see them & to the Sisters Allen, good women, who I hope will remain pretty well.

There is no one I have a greater regard for than Hannah Allen. I am going to send her a remembrance of my dear Mother.

I am glad that Mrs. Jos. Smith, thanks to you, is so much less suffering:

that the pig is still extinct:

& no more scarlatina:

& good hopes of water-supply

& that Mrs. Bratby is the better of the Cess.pool.

Thank you very much for your care of Patty Cottrell.

-I WISH she had your place in lieu of the present.

-I wish the father, a preacher!!, instead of stealing his child's wages, could be made to pay towards a Reformatory, by all accounts much needed for another girl.

[did you ever read "The Gaol Cradle: & who rocks it"?]

I would gladly give the child the boots: but it would all go into the father's pocket.

Far better Mrs. Swann's plan
that the Mistress, if to be trusted, should spend the child's wages on her before they become due: I am so glad to hear of that.

My dear Sir I should not have waited for your more than kind note to write to you about my dear Mother's blessed going home. But oh what a gap to me. She sank to rest with a smile on her face as if she saw God. But I have been so broken down with seeing people & business - I mean however to give myself the pleasure of writing about her to you: but will not delay this note about poor little Lee. Pray believe me sincerely yrs F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 3ff, pen

My dear Sir
Thank you for your kind letter. I am sorry to say the accounts of poor little Lee are far from good again. Mr. Croft writes to me: in answer to my enquiries: "I wish I could give a more hopeful account of little Harry Lee. "The new jacket had to be taken off. "The abscess is discharging freely still. "He is very thin & weak, & is not in a state in which we could think of
"moving him." (this is with reference to Ascot.)

"Supposing the case goes on favourably, he must remain a long time yet in the Hospital."

before, that is, he goes to Ascot.

I am very sorry; but Mr. Croft's first account showed how very seriously he thought of the case.

[only the intermediate account was so good.]

Poor little man! but few well-to-do children could be so carefully nursed & attended.

I am glad good Hannah Allen is better: & that Lizzie Holmes is not worse.

Pray excuse this brief note & believe me most faithfully yours F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq. 20/4/80

I should be glad if you would kindly tell me any thing about Rebecca Buxton's last illness & death.

Poor prisoner - {something was written under the struck-out now she is free. prisonern} F.N.
My dear Sir
  I am very much obliged
to you for your welcome
note.
  Pray be so good as to
send me my Quarterly
Acct.

1. You do not mention
Jane Allison. Thank
you very much for having
written to me before
about her. I let Mr.
Shore Smith know at
once about the unfortunate
separation with Platts,
which you did so much
to prevent: & that you,
who had done so much

for her, thought it
"very wrong that she
should live alone."
  I also wrote to Mr. Yeomans
& Mrs. Bratby.
  I am afraid that
the matter is irreparable.
  But would you kindly
look in upon her
(medically) from time
to time? & let me
know how she is going
on:
[I have been told the
neighbours are not too
kind to her.]
  And if you could
kindly let me know.
also how the children
(Platts') are going on, I
should be very grateful.
f56a
2. Mrs. Limb: poor woman, what a sufferer she is. I have very bad accounts from herself - uterine discharge - loss of appetite - she says she cannot now take her cocoatine, which she used to be so fond of.
Could anything else be recommended? She is full of gratitude, & indeed, it is a wonder that she lives so long. I have had much anxiety about Rose Limb. She wrote to me that she wished to leave School, & go to the Mill: & have "her books" at home. On enquiry I found, not from herself, that

f56av
she had already been dismissed from School, because she had often not been there when she was supposed at home to be there: & that she was already at a little place, "Peach's" [I am afraid she does not know what truth is.] I am told that "Peach's" is a good service, & that she will soon be ready for another place. If she goes to a good place, I would gladly give £1 for her outfit, but if she goes to the Mill, which it will probably end in, of course, I should not. But do not trouble yourself about this
I find that Rose Limb has already applied at the Mill, and have also alas! a confirmation that "she is not so good as she might be." She will not take a place in service, but she is only to be "employed at the Mill "upon the Conditions" I "name"- viz. Women's Club & 1/ a month P.O. S. Bank. I have also received a hint that I "run some "risk of imposition," from this & other families. I pray God that this child may be saved. Hitherto her short life has been one career of deceit. I pray you keep your eye upon her.

1. Thank you very much for the letter from Geo. Allison, Jane Allison's brother. He was here on Saturday (came up to London as Guard with a train) & confirmed the good account as to Jane being happy & well. She was still with him. I shall be very much obliged to you to see her when she returns.

2. I hope you have been able to pass Boden's daughter for the Women's Club.

3. Thank you for your good account of Mrs. Brocklehurst We have been able to prevent Mrs. Bratby from leaving Ramsgate at present. I told her what you had kindly said.

F.N.
My dear Sir
I have been so sorry not to answer your kind note at once. Please continue attending Jane Allison on my account: & I have also written to Mr. Yeomans about her. I do not wish Thomas Allison's daughter to be receiving parish relief at all: but I do not think there was any intention of sending her to the Workhouse. Please continue your kind care of her. I have had a terrible fright about my Fanny who came home alone & quite delirious at the beginning of the week - owing to their having kept her sitting up for 96 hours with her dying brother (for whom I had sent her)
& then sent her up to London
alone
without an hour's rest
& fainting, "to buy
their mourning," after
his death!!! She has had
Medical attendance 4 times in the 24 hours
& a trained Nurse night & day.
What with overwork &c.
I have rarely spent
such an anxious week.
I will write again:
Yours most faithfully
F. Nightingale
C.B.N. Dunn Esq

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 3ff, pen

Lea Hurst
Sept 26/80
My dear Sir
1. Thank you for your bulletins & your kindness to the poor little Platts'. If you think Mrs. Swann desirable for their recovery, & she would come, pray have the kindness to send for her.

2. Could you kindly tell me anything about this Mrs. "Machent" who wants a "double truss." I have promised her a letter to the Derby Infirmary, if you approve

3. Jane Allison was very much the better for your
kind conversation with her. [I saw her the next day.] My Fanny understood you to say that you would send her Jane some medicine. but she, Jane Allison, did not seem to have known of it. Perhaps, unless Fanny misunderstood you, you would send the Medicine by Bearer. Since I wrote this I hear that Jane has had her medicine.

4. I am waiting for Mr. Shore Smith's return to urge forward the Whatstandwell Coffee-house affair, if possible; which you have so kindly set on foot: (in haste)

Yours most faithfully
F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq
My dear Sir,

Do you know Mrs. Thompson, a widow with 8 children, living just above Mrs. Holmes? she is our Charwoman: & when she came to-day, said that her eldest daughter, who works at the Mill, was attacked with Erysipelas. I sent her home; & left a message in the village to ask you to be so kind as to attend the daughter. I have learnt since that you were not in the Village today.

Would you be so kind as to call on the girl Thompson: & also to let me know if there is anything we ought to send her: also: whether you think the mother had better stay at home with her girl, or whether she might still come here? They are very poor, I believe. And I understand the girl has had before a very severe attack of Erysipelas -

in haste

pray believe me sincerely yours
F. Nightingale
Perhaps, if you are coming or sending into Holloway tomorrow, you would kindly send the Medicines for my two maids & myself.

F.N.

C.B.N. Dunn Esq {at bottom of page}

Derby, unsigned, incomplete letter, with black-edged paper, 4ff, pen

[f61]

{written across left corner} [6:639-40]

Private Lea Hurst & Confidential Oct 26/80

My dear Sir

After you left me yesterday & after Fanny had come back from her walk, I had much & rather alarming conversation with her. She said she "feels as if she were going mad" - that she "wishes to die" - that she 'feels as if she wished to run straight out to walk as far as she can by herself to GET REST': that 'sometimes she cannot bear that any one should speak to her': that she "cannot think" - "cannot read" - that she sometimes "wakes finding herself sitting up in bed" - that "if anything goes wrong
she "cannot bear it" -
that she "feels as if something
were going round & round
inside her head": that
she `feels as if some one were
pulling at her at the top of
her head': (that sounds like Hysteria)
that `last Sunday at church
she could not sit still'.
[Yet she brought me a very
good report of the Sermon.]
She cried very much, which
relieved her.
Some time ago, she told me
she `had no soul': then that
her `soul was a very little one'.
She said she `could not settle
to anything.'
I was obliged to accede to her
sleeping in the room she
wished: She said "Tell me
don't gentlefolks have fires?"

but I insisted on the fire
being let out.
You may easily conceive, or
perhaps you can hardly
conceive how alarmed I
was.

Do you think there is any
danger of her "walking
"straight out" & going away
in the night?
or of her going in to Miss
Shore Smith (to whom I
have told nothing) in the
night?
[If I were alone in the house
with my own servants
it would be nothing.]
I lay listening last night
for every sound - indeed I
could not sleep for the severe
pain at the heart - once
I thought I heard her door
open, & got up. But it was
nothing.
This morning she is much better than I am: says that she slept well: partly, she says, "because "the room was warmer": partly because she "had kept herself quiet": owning that she could "keep herself quiet". "The least thing excites me," she says, which is perfectly true. [It is inconceivable the way she speaks to me: Sometimes she is aware of it, & says she "can't help it."] I think she got chilled on Sunday driving to Crich in the Waggonette: & that her bowels did not act on that day. Indeed they never do

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 1f, pencil

Lea Hurst
Nov 9/80
My dear Sir
Ann Allen had a fall some days ago, &, I am told, hurt her knees. It was said to be baddish a day or two ago. Would you be so very kind as, when you are coming into Holloway, give her a visit & oblige yrs sincerely F. Nightingale
C.B.N. Dunn Esq
My dear Sir,

Cecilia Linford has had the folly to tell neither you nor me that she has had no Pills since Thursday. Her bowels never act every day without them. And today she is suffering much from headache. The monthly period has not come on. And she looks as heavy as lead.

Could you kindly if you are sending this way tomorrow, send her her Pills & me my Medicine?

every faithfully yours

F. Nightingale

{added probably in pencil}

Lizzie Holmes was not so well yesterday.
Mr. & Mrs. Shore Smith desire me to say: would you kindly come here to luncheon tomorrow (Wednesday) at one to talk over with them the proposed Coffee-room at Whatstandwell? Or could you be so good as to come any time after 11.30, if not to luncheon tomorrow (Wednesday)?

I am in great hopes that it may be settled now with your kind help. F.N.

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 7ff, pen [1:510]

Mr. Shore Smith informed me of the conversation which you & he had had this afternoon on the proposed Coffee-room at Whatstandwell, & showed me Miss Hurt's kind letter. Mr. Shore Smith & I agree, I am afraid, that the buying up of the "Wheatsheaf" scarcely
offers enough inducement to balance the cost. To buy the license would probably take money enough to build three Coffee-rooms: would it not? And who is to secure us against another license being obtained & another 'public' being set up in the "Wheatsheaf's" place? To start with the smallest in place of the largest outlay would seem wise in an undertaking of which we cannot guarantee the Success. You mentioned to Mr. Shore Smith a small piece of land belonging to Mr. Hurt & let? to a Cottage on the left of the spot where the Quarry road comes out upon the Crich Carr road just above the steep descent to Whatstandwell, & below the "Wheatsheaf." Would you kindly enquire, after looking at this piece of ground.—if you think it suitable,
whether, if it is not let on lease, Mr. Hurt might possibly let it for such a purpose as this - the trying the experiment of a Coffee-room & Pay Office for the Quarry men? Perhaps you would be so good as to mention it to Miss Hurt. Mr. Shore Smith thinks that we might get a Corrugated Iron building, such as are made for

2
School-rooms &c - containing possibly a bed room for a Manager, to put up on this ground. And this would be trying under the best circumstances in our power what can be at first but an experiment without a large & discouraging outlay. What do you think? We bid you 'God speed' on your high errand & wait anxiously for the result, which we hope to hear perhaps in a day or two.

Pray believe me every yours faithfully Florence Nightingale C.B.N. Dunn Esq {at bottom of page}
My dear Sir
Thank you for your kind note about the Coffee-room. Could you come over here this afternoon to talk to Mr. Shore Smith about it - And - he has expressed a wish to consult you professionally. Pray come: if possible.
most fully yours
F. Nightingale
C.B.N. Dunn Esq

My dear Sir
I have so much to apologize to you for in bringing you out such a wet afternoon - not in vain, because the proposed Coffee-room was advanced by it - but in vain for your Patient, as I heard with dismay this morning. It cannot be accounted for, except perhaps indeed thro' "nervousness," as he says himself.
The one page which I
f66v

conveyed to you by letter, was conveyed to me by his wife herself. Will you excuse it? I hope to see you soon: & also to hear more about the Whatstandwell project from you. Perhaps you will kindly appoint a time & believe me yours very excuse=fully

F. Nightingale

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 1f, pen

f67

Lea Hurst
Dec 7/80
My dear Sir
Would you kindly see Bratby who is ill & Saml Crooks who has sprained his ancle, if you have not seen them today:
Yours sincerely
F. Nightingale
Would you also, please, see Mrs. Broomhead, who has been very ill since Saturday. She was to have come & seen me tomorrow, but is hardly able.
F.N.

C.B.N. Dunn Esq
C.B.N. Dunn Esq
Crich

Medicine for F. Dowding
Nisbet C. Linford
and Jane Allison
for F. Nightingale
And please send the Prescription for Nisbet.
F. Nightingale

Dec 5/80
12/12/80

I am afraid poor Mrs. Limb is kept in a very dirty state, by her daughter-in-law's own account. But the said d.in law is so perfectly self-satisfied that it is difficult to say anything. [How I wish I had one of our District Nursing ladies here to show her.]
Mrs. Limb is complaining of a sore knee. I fear she will have bed sores.

Poor Mrs. Broomhead seems in a very suffering state: so much pain which she calls rheumatic between her shoulders.

I should be very sorry not to see you again. To-day, Thursday & Friday I am overwhelmed. I could see you on Wednesday or Sunday at 3.30 for a few minutes, if that would suit you.

yrs sincerely   F. Nightingale
Lea Hurst  
Dec 18 1880

My dear Sir  
I commend to your kind care Mrs. Thompson,  
if she sends for you:  
& her 2nd son, if she sends to you on account of his eyes. He has been under Mr. Taylor at Nottingham.  
Her 2nd daughter will enter the Women's Club, if you can pass her: she is just 14;  
as well as  
Louie Peach  
& Anthony Boden's daughter  
if you can pass them.

C.B.N. Dunn Esq

He is making enquiries as to a wooden building in London. Mr. Yeomans is coming to me this evening with estimates both of Corrugated Iron & wooden buildings.  
Perhaps you will think it hardly necessary for us to advertise for a second hand room till this information comes in.  
But I will tell Mr. Shore Smith what Miss Hurt & you say, and doubtless Mrs. Hurt's further enquiries are worth waiting for, as you suggest with regard to "letting out" a room.
2. I was sorry to send to you so unceremoniously for Nisbet's prescription. She is gone today: & I have given it her. Are there any precautions to be observed, such as not going on with it for more than a certain time?
3. Mrs. Thompson's daughter complains of swelled legs. Would you be so good as to see her some time? I am obliged to return to London on Monday, I fear. Do you think badly of poor Bratby?

Martha Sheldon asks me to ask you to tell me what you reported of her brother to Mr. Wildgoose. If he comes to you for more medicine without a note from Mr. We, would you kindly charge it to me? How do you find old Lyddy Prince? I commend all our pensioners to your kind care.
Will you be kind
even to let me have
your Acct at the end
of the Quarter, including
of course John Bratby
& Mrs. Holmes.
Lizzie Holmes has been
suffering severely from
her cough. Could any
thing more be done
for her?
Wonderful to state, I have,
I believe, persuaded
Jane Allison to go to
Manchester, if her nephew,
to whom I have written,
will have her. She gives

Pray let me thank you
again for all your
considerate & skilful
care: & wish you
Goodbye & Godspeed
with all my heart:
& in great haste
believe me ever sincerely yrs
F. Nightingale

Might I trouble you to give
the enclosed £2.2
to Mr. Acraman with
my best wishes for
his Curates' Fund?
My dear Sir,

Thank you for your kind note about the stone building for the proposed Whatstandwell Coffee-room, & for the answers to your Advt, - all of which I have transmitted to Mr. Shore Smith.

I am very sorry indeed to hear your account of poor John Bratby. I have written to his wife, proposing Mrs. Swann to help nurse him: at C.B.N. Dunn Esq.

my expence, of course.

Would you kindly further this, if you think it desirable?

Might I ask you what is the medicine instead of Colchicum, which you give for gout? to Bratby?

I hope to hear from you in a day or two:

I am glad you saw Mr. Yeomans.

He gladly accepts the office of Treasurer to the Whatstandwell Coffee-room -and proposes that young Mr. Sims should be added to the Committee.

Have you said anything to him about the sewage outlet in Holloway, & his field? I find the
field of his he proposes for it is not the field we thought - but a field farther from Ashmore's than the present outlet. That all the highest blessings of the New Year & of many New Years may rest on you & yours & all our poor Patients is the fervent wish of yours ever sincerely

F. Nightingale

Might I trouble you to give the enclosed to Mrs. Swann?

Fanny Dowding is quite laid up with a very severe attack of congested (& slightly enlarged) Liver: which, the Medical attendant thinks, must have been coming on some time

F.N.

I trust you will soon see Mr. Yeomans about the field to receive the Holloway sewage, & the proposal of a "tank"- if it is desirable.

F.N.

I hope poor old Lyddy Prince is tolerably well: & Mrs. Limb & Mrs. Broomhead not suffering too much from the cold. Would
you be so very good as to see that Mrs. Broomhead (she is so helpless) uses the warm bottles & warm things &c that she has - I desired Martha Sheldon to make her a pair of warm stockings to wear at night - Are they come? I hope too that dear Mrs. Bratby is not worse: & her husband improving. Please remember me to them all.

F.N.

Derby, signed letter, 7ff, pencil

My dear Sir
I think I must ask you kindly to take Lizzie Holmes on your List on my account because the "Club" will not "allow," as I am told, even if the Patient even goes out for a walk: One cannot quarrel with this rule: And yet it annoys Mrs. Holmes excessively. And they are the very reverse of "imposing."
2. Have you been able
to cure Adam Prince
of his 'tic'?
3. Some time ago the
younger of the two old
Sisters Allen had
blood in her urine,
as she describes it.
It is not going on now
But they too are the
very reverse of "imposing"-
And I should be thankful
if you would kindly
see after them occasionally.

4. You have already
done my Fanny much
good
in haste
not to take up your time
yrs fflly
F. Nightingale
The Bratby's cesspool
overflow is to be piped
off tomorrow.

The Bratby's cesspool
overflow is to be piped
off tomorrow.

I am very glad the idea
of a Company is given up
& very glad that you can
recommend a suitable
Workman's Committee.
I don't think the Savings
Bank should be given up
on account of its being
too much trouble. What
I fear is that its publicity
may ruin it. Workmen
will not put by, will
they?, in view of each
other, & in view of their
employers. They will not
save except in secret.
However, Peach would be the man to manage it; because he knows them well. I beg to give you joy & the [pencil begins] Miss Hurts of the good prospect of the Whatstandwell Coffee-room - And I look forward to the day that is near when Adam Prince will be found sitting there instead of being fished out of a Crich public house by his poor old mother after 3 days' drinking - as he was last winter.

I will not delay this scrappy note - else I fear it will never go at all. Many thanks for your report of the Patients - & believe me ever faithfully yrs F. Nightingale C.B.N. Dunn Esq If you should see Peach again will you give him a kind message from me, thank him for sending me the Memoir of his wife, & tell him if it is not premature how much I like to think of his eagerness about this Coffee-room? [end 6:648] F.N. Excuse pencil
My dear Sir
Would you be so very good
as to see old Mrs. Brown for me?
I am told she is very ill.
Many thanks for what you
have done for Francis & Jane
Allison. I am afraid her
relatives threaten her with the

"Lunatic Asylum again." They do
not second our efforts, or try
to help her— I am afraid she
has no companion yet.
in haste
every sincerely yrs
F. Nightingale
C.B.N. Dunn Esq
f74

Francis: Feb. 19/84
{printed address} 10, SOUTH STREET,
My dear Sir PARK LANE.W.

You are so good as to attend
Francis, the gardener at Lea Hurst,
& his wife, on my account. Might
I ask you to have the great kindness
to give me your opinion of Francis' state? Mr. Shore Smith has received
notice to leave from them, asking too for a small grass farm at Lea, on the
ground of your Medical opinion. It is added that you tell him he has Diabetes

f74v or f74a

2

We were naturally rather surprised at the notice, as I had not heard a word of it from you,
who were kindly attending him for me. This sudden notice could scarcely have happened at a more inconvenient time, as I am glad to say Mr. & Mrs. Shore Smith have left for Algiers this very day for 6 or 8 weeks, I am sorry to say for health. I hope the matter concerning Francis is not so very pressing, as you have not mentioned it to me. Mr. Shore Smith trusts it may be put off, & that Mr. S.S. may not be troubled just now.
10 South St. W.
April 26/84

My dear Sir,
We are always glad to hear of the Whatstandwell Coffee-room. But if you think the "men do not like our wares," could you suggest any thing else, any other foods, drinks, or amusements, that they would like better, with which they could be supplied? We used to think the receipts very satisfactory: are they less so? I am afraid you think them less.

The thing perhaps is -not so much to "keep men out of the public-house"- ("swept & garnished" & "7 devils, worse than before" occurs to one) but as to give them the means to keep out of the public-house.
Are the quarry & labouring men "corrupt"? - not so much as Londoners - not so much as mill people - are they?
Poor old Mrs. Brown - I trust she will pull through under your kind care. She is an industrious old woman. Pray tell her how much I feel for her.

Also = Anthony Boden, & old Betty Broom - & more particularly the Allens -
also Mrs. Marsh.

Thank you for all your kind care.

I have been so engaged attending Sir Harry Verney for the past 4 weeks has been in extreme danger from Pneumonia in both lungs - exhausting rigors - tempe down to 95° & up to 105° that I have been able to do hardly anything else. But the day before yesterday, he was declared out of danger, tho' mending very slowly.

I have also had two of Mrs. & Mrs. Shore Smith's children staying with me.

Mr. & Mrs. S.S. are now returned from Algiers.
f75c
But I am sorry to say that he is far from well. Mrs. Bonham Carter is dead of Bronchitis. She did not survive her sister, Miss Julia Smith, 4 months. She is the last of that vigorous generation.
I have been a good deal pulled down in every way. My sister is still in a painful, crippled condition from Arthritis but very brave.
Sir Harry's mind was perfectly clear & calm throughout: he knew there was

f75d
small chance of recovery:
You kindly ask after Fanny: She has been 7 months a Patient under Medical care & nothing but a Patient - the last 3 at Bournemouth Sanatorium. She is now in good health & the lung quite "quiescent" - But the Doctors entirely forbid my taking her back. One of them said to me: "I fear her brain giving way before her lungs."
You saw her at Lea Hurst in something of the same strange state: wayward. I have of course told no one. This is quite private
For the present I have arranged for her to stay with a widowed sister in the country. 
Pray believe me ever yours faithfully 
F. Nightingale 
C.B.N. Dunn Esq

My dear Sir 
Thanks for all your kindness to the Village people & for your account of them. 
Jane Allison I feel rather alarmed about when I hear of her asking neighbours to let her sleep with them which looks as if she were afraid of herself. Does the child sleep out too when she does? 
Widow Brown & old Lyddy Prince I am sorry to hear are suffering from Bronchitis. I am myself quite in bed with it.
Adam Prince I wish the Coffee-room would catch.
Martha Sheldon will scarcely, I fear you think, be ever quite herself again.
And old Betty Broom I fear too you think will have another attack.
Mrs. Francis tells me she is recovering nicely under your kind care.
It is astonishing how Mrs. Broomhead lives -
And Anthony Boden too.
I shall be anxious to hear about the Allens.

Would it be too much to trouble you kindly to ask all of these to write to me?
They are nearly all of them glib with their pens.
And might I ask you after Widow Barton - a great friend of mine?
It is some time since Bratby has written to me - I was afraid he was laid up again.

Pray believe me ever yours faithfully
F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq
Dec 11/84

{printed address} 10, SOUTH STREET,
My dear Sir PARK LANE. W.
I am so very sorry to have been compelled to make such long delay in writing to you - And now another Acct is nearly due.
About the Stove for Anthony Boden's bed-room, I wrote immediately to Mr. Yeomans to have it done. But he says A. Boden could not bear the noise. Should you think otherwise, pray 

have it done. I will go halves with the house landlord in the cost.
We are so rejoiced that the Whatstandwell Coffee-room prospers.
I am about to write you a better letter but have had many draw-backs - among them, an inflammm in my eyes -

every your faithful servt
F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq
Derby, signed letter with the first pages missing, 5ff, pen

£78

2. I have now (this morning) received your kind letter. And I will trouble you about Milk & Meat & such things as you kindly order for our charges. On Meat are Sisters Allen
   Louisa Peach
   {Widow Barton
   { " Brown
Of the two last, Widow Barton's was only to be for the winter months. Widow Brown's only for her illness. Both would stop on March 31.
   I observe from your letter that good Widow Barton has been ill. Would you like her Meat to continue a month longer? I conclude that you would wish L. Peach's meat to continue.
You kindly tell me how each of these 5 or rather 6 Patients are:
I will ask you to say when, if ever, any are no longer in need of the Meat.
3. I am sorry to hear so poor an account of Lizzie Holmes’ winter, & very thankful to you for your care of her.
4. The following are on Milk:
   Mrs. Broomhead: (Meat
   Lyddy Prince: (Meat
   Holmes (Widow Marsh
   Barton: (Meat
   L. Peach: (Meat
   Barton: (Meat
   Ant. Boden
   Sisters Allen: 2 (Meat
   Mrs. Brown: (Meat
   Betty Broom

The 4 I have marked had Milk conditionally till March 31 only.
But I should not like to take them all off:
& would propose that each of the two twos should have it quarter & quarter about, subject of course to your advice.
Should it be
(Widow Barton, supposing her Meat taken off
(Anthony Boden March 31 - June 30?
(L. Peach, supposing her Meat not taken off
(Widow Marsh June 30 - Sept. 30.
or how?
the whole subject to your advice if you will be so very kind as to give it.
& nobody to be taken off
without your advice
(Tho' I admit I have done
wrong in making 'pensioners')
& no one to be kept on
who you think needs it
no longer.
I would propose that all
those who are kept on
should understand that it
is to be re-considered every
3 months: your kind advice
to be always taken.
5 I should be glad to hear
how you think Lyddy Prince
(does Adam keep sober?)
Widow Marsh: Anty Boden.
{upside down printed address: 10 South Street etc}
{below in pencil}
Pray excuse all the trouble I
am giving you.

Mrs. Broomhead I have
heard little of for months,
except, alas!, of her
daughter's "misfortune"
which has been a heavy
"trial" to her. I am afraid
her daughter's "misfortune"
means but one thing.?
{below in pencil}
The Sisters Allen I am always
so glad to hear of.
F.N.
Liverpool Record Office

Derby, signed letter on small paper, 2ff, pen

**f79**

May 16/87

{printed address} 10, SOUTH STREET,

My dear Sir PARK LANE.W.

I cannot say how much obliged
to you I am for keeping us
informed about poor Bratby
& for your great attention to him.

I am afraid you are not satisfied
with his progress. Has his
consciousness been defective?

I trust you will have Dr Webb
in consultation as often as you think

**f79v**

desirable & that if there
is anything I could send him,
you will tell me.

With many thanks, pray believe me,
most faithfully yours

F. Nightingale

I wrote on Saturday to thank you for
your kind Telegram. But somebody's
carelessness did not post the letter in
time.

C.B.N. Dunn Esq

Derby, signed letter, first page/s missing, 7ff, pencil

2

I am very, very sorry about

*Adam Prince*. I wrote to
him on Miss Mochler's death.
He answered - & sent some
little sum to his mother -
at the same time saying to me
how much had been spent
in drink!!! I think there
may still be hopes of him.

Poor Lyddy Prince has
been helped this winter -
it is a difficulty about this,
knowing that what helps her
goes to supply Adam with
drink.

She is now on the parish.
with a claim to Medical relief - I know you will not let her suffer for this - And if you order her Cod Liver Oil or any such expensive medicine, will kindly let me pay for this.

3. I ama very glad that Bratby has sought your aid which I have been always urging him to do on my Acct -
I am sure he will find the benefit of it.

4. Mrs. Brown is also on parish & Medical relief. And I can only say the same as of Lyddy Prince & I am sure you will not let her suffer.

5. Mrs. Barton also - They are all good industrious women: anything but paupers. Could I do anything more for Mrs. Barton?

6. Jane Allison was at Manchester this Xmas - I never like her to be alone in Holloway - without any one living with her - I am glad she went to you.

7. Whatstandwell Coffee-rooms - It rejoices me that you think they prosper. I am sending them some more books for their Lending Library.

8. The Allens: Yes, please, be so good as to call upon them. Ann is always suffering. But I am so glad you think her improved.
Thanks for attending to Martha Sheldon - & for giving her some of your invaluable moral control. I believe it is not unusual, is it? for brother & sister, or sisters, living in the wilful prison they do, to have like delusions. She is almost unmanageable - but I hope much from your management. [I desired her to send for you.]

My sister is greatly improved in health (you kindly ask) but this terrible Arthritis makes sad progress. Sir Harry has to take much care on account of his chest. I cannot say much for myself, (you ask), but, with repeated thanks for your kind care of our people, & hopes that Mrs. Dunn is well & will accept
My kind regards
pray believe me
ever yours faithfully
F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq
Would you be so very kind
as, whenever you see my
people, to give them a
kind message from me,
& say I asked after them;
& would they write to
me?

F.N.
Please excuse pencil

Derby, unsigned last pages of letter, 3ff, pen

Do you know a Mrs. Sims, of Crich,
- married daughter of that
good woman, your old Patient,
Mrs. Limb, who died at
Holloway? If she
comes in your way, would
you be so very kind as to
ask her to write to me
about her youngest Sister,
Rose Limb, - now married,
I am afraid not very well,
in Derby,- & whose
confinement she, Mrs. Sims, has
been attending - & to tell
me how Rose Limb is, & all
about her,
& give me her married
name & address?
Would it be troubling you
too much to ask you what sort of woman Mrs. Sims is? My recollection of her is that she nursed her Mother, Mrs. Limb, once - not very well - & was rather 'ramshackle' & dirty slovenly. But I am not sure. I was very sorry not to see you when you were so good as to call here in August. I was just gone to my Sister, who is now a confirmed Invalid from Rheumatic Arthritis, at Claydon. But I returned a month ago.

Private

In the strictest confidence
I will tell you that at the Pendlebury, the Lady Supt has not sufficient authority in the Wards - that there are reported to be flirtations & "givings in marriage," (one has not heard of anything worse) between the Students or young Doctors & young ladies who are very young. I merely give you this hint.
My dear Sir

Thank you for your kind note about Adam Prince. What I hear of him is that he can now take neither "milk" nor "eggs" - If it is the fault of my "supply", I am very, very sorry - He has They have 2 pints of milk, & 2 eggs daily & I believe "regularly" from Mr. Yeomans. It is some time since

I have sent Panada & Calves foot Jelly "from London." For I understood that he must not have these things. He sometimes wishes for "a little bit of nice Roast Meat." But I did not dare to furnish this without your orders. Otherwise I am sure Mrs. Yeomans would. If Dr. Macdonald would kindly order any thing that was right, I would either immediately from Mr. Yeomans for
me or from he me,
Adam Prince should
have it. I will send
him "Port Wine" from
London.
Excuse this scrawl -
I have difficulty in
writing. And there is
so much to do here,
I will write again
Yours most faithfully
F. Nightingale
C.B.N. Dunn Esq
I am penitent about
Adam Prince - for not having
written to you before
[last line is written up along the side of the page]