

UK manuscripts: Liverpool Record Office, paper copies, handwritten, some with typed copies, some typed copies with no handwritten original, indicated 610 RAT; with 4 typed copies of originals at the University of Wales Bangor; typed copies of Rathbone letters at end;

typed copy of letter 13 June 1898 in University of Liverpool [6:578]

610 RAT 1/1 incomplete letter, 2ff, pen, typed copy fl

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 accommodation x Miss Jones thinks desirable. She herself informed me of it: but her chief trouble was X Workhouse Infy=

[6:247]

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]

[end 6:247]

typed copy May 26/65 f3

610 RAT 1/2 signed letter, 2ff, pen, copy 47753 ff246-47 [6:265-68]

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

{top left corner; diagonally:} *Private*  
July 4~~2~~/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

610 RAT 1/3 signed letter, 12ff, pen

[6:266-68]

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

{top left corner; diagonally:} *Private*  
July 4/66

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 &

Private {top left corner; diagonally:}

[2]

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.

{top left corner; diagonally;} *Private*

[4]

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

{top left corner; diagonally;} *Private*

[5]

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 *generalia*, 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.

[6]

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.  
FN.

**[end 6:268]**

typed copy July 21/66 ff4-9

typed copy July 2/66 f10

typed copy July 4/68 ff11-15

**610** RAT 1/4 letter, 2ff, pen, typed copy f16 [6:275-76] [seems incomplete in our copies but original has another folio

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  
expençe 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.

**610** RAT 1/5 Incomplete letter, 2ff, pen, typed copy f18

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

**610** RAT 1/6 signed letter, 3ff, pen, typed copy f19 **[5:257]**

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 {written over charity} 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.

2

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

610 RAT 1/7 signed letter, 9ff, pen & pencil, typed copy ff21-22

May 15/67

[6:276-78]

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

2

much both into your  
work & Miss A. Jones's]  
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

3

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

4

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. {pencil:} 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 Superintendts=  
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

5

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.

**610** RAT 1/8 signed letter, 5ff, pen & pencil, typed copy ff26-28 **[5:258-59]**

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}

2

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

[5:259]

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 **[9:958]**  
that, even beyond the sphere  
of ~~the~~ our Christian religion,  
your example will spread  
& take root. Lately  
I have had from  
Parsee merchants in Bombay

{same printed address upside down in bottom left corner}

3

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

**[end 9:958]**

**610** RAT 1/9 signed letter, 2ff, pen, typed copy f29

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 whitening the sepulchre.

    ever yours affectely &  
    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.

610 RAT 1/11 signed letter, 2ff, pen [6:281-82]

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.

610 RAT 1/12 letter, 4ff, pen, typed copy ff32-34 [6:282-83]

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

2

[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.}

610 RAT 1/13 signed letter, 2ff, pen, typed copy ff35-36 [6:285-86]

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}

610 RAT 1/14 incomplete letter, 2ff, pen no date

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



610 RAT 1/15 signed letter, 7ff, pen, on larger paper, typed copy ff38-40

{printed address:}

35 South Street,  
Park Lane,  
W.

April 20/70

[6:304-05]

{top left corner; diagonally:} *Private*

[other hand Miss Nightingale

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 Sup<sup>=</sup>cy "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}

[end 13:615]

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

{printed address:}

35 South Street, May 26/70  
 Park Lane,  
 W.

[13:615-16]

{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.]

[2]

{printed address:}

35 South Street, May 26/70  
Park Lane,

W.

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:-

[end 13:616]

**610** RAT 1/18 pencil, signed letter, 2ff, pencil, typed copy ff45-47 [6:320]

{printed address:}

35 South Street, June 25/70  
Park Lane,

W.

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"}.

**[13:509-10]**

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*  
 publ'd by Isbister: Ludgate Hill  
 London 5/.

5/

[2]

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.

**610** RAT 1/20 signed letter, 2ff, pencil {on black-edged paper}, typed copy f48

{top left corner; diagonally;} *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

**610** RAT 1/21 signed draft of Letter, 13ff, pen & pencil, some pages black-edged paper, folios very mixed up--I've followed #s which are not FN's hand and tried to make it make sense; have had to use earlier transcript for missing folios; not all folios seen for checking, typed copy ff49-57

"Nurses for the Sick Poor" AT HOME. [35 South St.  
 ["at home" underlined 6 times] Park Lane W.  
 Wm Rathbone Esq. MP. [1] June 16/74  
 {further dating throughout letter not FN's hand}

[13:727-29]

Dear Mr. Rathbone: In compliance with your desire:

[[Do we not all most earnestly wish that  
 {FN's wavy square bracket at left; here to bottom}  
 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*

[black-edged paper] [wavy square bracket at left; next 4 lines]  
 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}~~

[wavy square bracket at left; whole page]

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

[black-edged] [wavy square bracket at left; whole page] [4 in another hand]  
 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.

[wavy square bracket at left; except last line  
 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"

[6 in another hand]

[wavy line down left side] [black-edged paper]  
 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".

[black-edged]

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?

[two lines crossed out and illegible]

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

[8 in another hand]

[wavy square bracket at left; whole page]  
~~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?~~

[black-edged paper] 3 [16 June in another hand]

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 *superinte*  
*nded* do

themselves?

to keep the *Local Superintts*= up to their work,  
these do the *Nurses*?

And if *Superintendce*= 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?*]

{illeg. 9?} If Lady Augusta Stanley had not {illeg.} 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 Hospl=*. *have carried out the Lpool scheme for that part of Westminster wh: is adjacent & this without the aid of any Central Association*

{10}. 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 *Westm: Hosp:* only nursing "*in private fam*

{text missing on right}

Many Institutions have found *it* one great difficulty of retaining *trained Nurses* in any Association or specified line of work: *is* the temptation which th{e} more profitable & more independent employment Nursing the Rich affords -

It is believed that *Liverpool & St. Thomas'* have n{ot} met with this difficulty-

But I have been told expressly by one of the largest *Nursing Institutions, & one mentioned in the 'St. Joh{n of Jerusalem' Report:* & by very many smaller ones country & town: that all their Nurses were virtu{ally} taken up in nursing the *Rich:* & that practicall{y} they did little or no Nursing among the *poor* at {all.}

{text missing on right}

11

Is there not always a difficulty, most felt by the best  
 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.*' Commee= 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 wh{at}  
 can be done in one *locality*?

-Will it not spread itself by degrees?

{ou}ght not A *Central Society*, later be of some use for  
*assisting poorer districts*?

When an evil has arisen, it will be time enou{gh}  
 will it not?, to devise means for the cure?

-Should not *local effort precede Central Inspectio{n?}*

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*?

{A}t 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)  
 {w}ould 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 -

{A}nd 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

**610** RAT 1/22 signed letter, 2ff, pen & pencil on black-edged paper, typed copy f58 {written across page with fold at top}

Miss Lees

35 South St.  
Park Lane W  
July 12/74

[13:734]

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. [end 13:734]

typed copy ff61-62

**610** RAT 1/23 Incomplete letter, 2ff, pen and pencil

[diagonal] *Private*

{District } Norwood  
 {Nursing } June 12/75  
 {London }  
 {Association}

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I make haste to thank [13:743-44]  
 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?

[rest of letter in pencil]

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

**610** RAT 1/24 signed letter, 1f, pen, typed copy f63

Address  
35 South St. Park Lane  
July 6/75 W.

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

**610** RAT 1/25 signed letter, 3ff, pen, larger paper, typed copy ff65-66

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

Dear Mr. Rathbone

[12:134-35]

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 be 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

[end 12:135]

Wm Rathbone, M.P.

**610** RAT 1/26 signed letter, 2ff, pen on black-edged paper, typed copy ff67-68

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

[13:762-63]

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 Hospl=, 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 [end]

**610** RAT 1/27 incomplete letter, 1 f, pencil

2

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

**610** RAT 1/28 signed letter, 2ff, pen. black-edged paper

10 South St.

Park Lane W.

April 24/84

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

**[13:565]**

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-

[end]

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}

**610** RAT 1/29 incomplete letter, 2ff, pen, typed copy f81

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

**610** RAT 1/30 signed letter, 1f, pencil

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

**610** RAT 1/31 signed letter, 2ff, pencil, typed copy f83

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

[end]

typed copy 26 July/87 ff84-91

**610** RAT 1/32 signed letter, 1f, pencil, typed copy f92

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

**610** RAT 1/33 copy of letter 7 ff, not FN hand but sounds like her, 1 folio done, typescript, typed copy Nov 5/87, see pencil letter of same date 47755 f26; this is in Mary Stocks 69, but dated Nov 6 1887.

Confidential Nov 5/87

[13:794-96]

Dear Mr Rathbone

I recd 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



610 RAT 1/34 initialled letter, 3ff, pen & pencil, typed copy ff100-01

*Private & Confidential*

10 South St.

Nov 30/87

Dear Mr. Rathbone

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

[13:799-800]

*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.] of advice}

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" (Commee= of Advice) strongly insisted upon local self-government being preserved.]

2. Whether the Queen's money & influence will increase, not supersede, ~~your~~ 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

&amp; 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*

&amp; 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~~ is 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" Hospls= 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.

2

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~~ 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". [end 13:805]

**610** RAT 1/36 signed letter, 2ff, pen, typed copy ff108-09

[top left corner; diagonally] *Private*

Q.V.J.I.N. May 13/89

10, SOUTH STREET, [13:809]  
 PARK LANE. W. {printed address:}

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~~ meaning 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.

[end]

610 RAT 1/37 signed letter, 2ff, pen, typed copy f110

{top left corner; diagonally:} *Private*

August 6/89

10, South Street, {printed address:}

Grosvenor Square, W.

Dear Mr. Rathbone

[13:810]

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

{same printed address, upside down, lower left centred.}  
{top left corner; diagonally:} *Confidential*

BURN

z      *Maternity "Additions  
          to proposed pamphlet*

*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.

**[end]**

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

Source: Typed excerpts from Agnes Jones's Notes, City of Liverpool Archives  
[6:250]

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....

{printed address:} 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.

**610** RAT 1/42 signed letter, 2ff, pencil, typed copy ff117-18

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

**[13:575]**

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

**610** RAT 1/44 fragment, 2ff, not FN hand

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* to 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 superintendance.

**610** RAT 2/1 signed letter, 2ff, pencil, on black-edged paper, typed copy

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

My dear Miss Merryweather

[13:531]

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=stipula=  
tions?

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

**[end]**

2/2 Rathbone with FN comments on it date of 26th July 1887 or 188, embossed House of Commons stationery typed copy

WR: 18 Princes Gardens

[13:785-87]

London SW

26th July 1887

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 find, 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~~ quantity of good candidates, or improve the quality the 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?

WR: (6)

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.

(7)

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.

v FN: (8)

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:

Rat 2/3 notes Oct 20/87 re Sir R. Alcock [not input but probably FN's]

Rat 2/4 not FN hand, note

Box 3/10 (see etext for other items, not FN)

FN pencil note, centred

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

aged 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"-

[Leave spaces-

then, at the bottom]

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

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

—W.R.—

Box 6 RAT 6/1

6/1 signed letter, 8 ff, pen

[6:310-12]

{top left corner; diagonally:} *Private*  
*& Confidential*

35 South Street, Oct 23/68  
Park Lane, {printed address:}

W.

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 & out:spoken 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 ~~so~~ 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 ~~a~~ ~~W~~ 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 Infirmeries in the country- on the best Pavilion principles- and the worst of them,



[2]

(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 {the balance of page in very tiny script} result of an /assumed appeal, real or apparent, from Mrs. Wardroper or me, it would be in great haste very disastrous.

ever yours sincerely,  
Florence Nightingale

{printed address, upside down:}

Any information that 35 South Street,  
I have about what Park Lane,  
London Workhouses W.

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.

6/2 signed letter, 2ff, pen

[6:452-53]

35 South Street, May 23/71  
Park Lane, {printed address:}  
W.

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  
expences- 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

6/3 signed letter, 2ff, pen. {on black-edged paper} [6:453]

## WORKHOUSE NURSES

35 South Street, May 24/71

Park Lane, {printed address:}

W.

{top left corner; diagonally:} 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 expences 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

6/4 signed draft of letter, 13ff, pen [several listed 6/4] [6:453-57]

{top left corner; diagonally:} *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 {double line down left margin for next 6 lines} induce the P. L. Board to take up {circled:} the subject {circled:} of Nurse=training. {circled:} 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.  
 {double line down left margin for all but last 2 lines of paragraph}

[[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 Governmt= Departmt= as a {note vertically in left margin: {must be left free}}

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

{3 lines in left margin beside this point}  
 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.]

[2]

{top left corner; diagonally;} *Private*  
{printed address:} 35 South Street,  
Park Lane,  
W.

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.]

[[e. {circled:} b /Miss N opinion is The object of the Schools should be limited to supplying those larger Infirmeries which require a complete Staff, (Supt= & Nurses.) This is quite enough for the Schools to undertake.

The smaller Infirmeries 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 Infirmeries 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 expence 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.

[3]

{top left corner; diagonally;} *Private*  
 35 South Street, {printed address:}  
 Park Lane,  
 W.

*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  
 {3 vertical lines in left margin mark this point from here to end}  
 as Nurses -

*I should make this a sine qua non* with the P. L. Board.

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 -

{3 vertical lines in left margin mark this point from here to end}  
*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  
{2 vertical lines in left margin for next 3 lines}  
~~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 *deprecate* 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: HOSPL= 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 convinces 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 thro' 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-

{top left corner; diagonally;} CONFIDENTIAL

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 Superintendent= 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 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 alledge 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? --  
 {printed address; on side at left:} 35 South Street,  
 Park Lane,  
 W.

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

[2]

way, keep her in more than order 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 right:} 35 South Street,  
 Park Lane,  
 W.

6/7 signed letter, 2ff, pen

[6:460]

{top left corner; diagonally:} *Private*  
*& Confidential*  
{Govt- Training Sch: for Workh:  
{NURSES

35 South Street, June 16/71  
Park Lane, {printed address:}

W.

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 superintendance 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



notes made by LM at the Central Library, Record Office, Wm Brown Sq April 27/04; copies not permitted of FN book Hq 091.5 Nig which has a letter and Ms of Notes on the Health of Hospitals, presented by FN to the Free Library of Liverpool; Helena Smart, concerned about the binding; possible to get scanned at £40/page, no microfilming available, suggest scanning upstairs possible for £50 total

30 Old Burlington St  
London W

Sept 13/59

[16:76]

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

**[end]**

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

**[13:586-90]**

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 as 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 Superintendent 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



-4-

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]

LRO Rathbone **610** LRO Rathbone 610 6/8 signed letter, 2ff, pencil

35 South St. July 2/73

[13:506-08]

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.]

incomplete letter, 4ff, pencil

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-

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.]

LRO Rathbone **610** 6/9 signed letter, 2ff, pencil black-edged

Boston: Supt of Nurses 35 South St.

**[13:509-10]**

Park Lane W.

May 25/74

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,  
~~to~~ 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=  
=able

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

LRO Rathbone **610** 6/10 signed letter, 9ff, pencil black-edged

"Nurses for the Sick Poor" 35 South St.  
Park Lane W.  
June 13/74

[13:723-24]

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 corresponsions 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"



-2-

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?}

-4-

E.g.

5 c        Imagine a *Central Power* - ~~{illeg illeg  
illeg illeg illeg illeg}~~ 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 ~~{illeg}~~  
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 illeg illeg illeg illeg illeg illeg illeg  
 illeg St. illeg Hospital illeg illeg (illeg Miss  
 Mary Jones' time.)}~~

Why cannot they train *District Nurses* at  
 (say) *Charing Cross Hospital*? & make a beginning there?  
 nursing the *Strand district*?

[that would be beginning with a 'horse' to draw their  
 'cart']

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6 b N.B. The way they set about their work was this:  
 they sent round a Circular of Questions to  
*all the Training Schools*.

Of these, two thirds had not been in existence  
 a year & two thirds had *not a Trained Nurse*  
 among them -

7. "For want of a suggestive plan much of  
 "willing assistance is never given."

True: but the plan may be *locally* organized  
 Must it not be *locally* organized?

'The plan & "map of work"' - - is it not good  
 only as a thing *to be done gradually by local means*?

7a. I cannot but think that the smaller place -  
*Liverpool*, has enormous advantages over  
*London* for many reasons besides  
 those referred to above -

{in the margin beside this following paragraph:}

{illeg Mr. Whitaker ?}

[N.B. There is no influence of any *single* man  
 in *London* or of any *Society* or *combination* of  
 men not even of the Cabinet or House of  
 Commons: in a LOCAL sense: to be  
 compared with *yours at Liverpool*]

7 b *Sir E. Lechmere's* proclivities about the "Order  
 of "St. John of Jerusalem" are well known & much  
 laughed at by sensible London men -

Such might unite with him in spite of  
 his "Order": or they might give money in the  
 general ignorance which reigns about Nursing.

But it would be a decided hindrance to  
 sensible men *co-operating*: this, the "Order"  
 nonsense.

[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

LRO Rathbone **610** 6/11 incomplete letter, 12ff, pencil {archivist: 16 June 74}

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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.

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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]

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(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~~

to each District a *Local Lady Supt*

responsible for finding Medical Comforts:

? *selecting cases:*

*in communication with ? District Committee, Medical  
     Officers & persons locally interested  
     assisting & directing Nurse*

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

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- 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  
 aggravated* 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*

-8-

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 ~~illeg~~/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 *neighbourhood 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*

LRO Rathbone **610** 6/12 initialed letter, 2ff, pencil black-edged

"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

-2-

they say none but 'Sisters' {religious} {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.

yrs F.N./P. Turn over

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

LRO Rathbone 610 6/13 signed letter, 4ff, pen black-edged

Liverpool &  
Ladies

35 South St.  
Park Lane W.  
June 27/74

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I try to answer your letter, because you  
bid me answer, before Monday.

[13:654-55]

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



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 ~~you~~/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.

LRO Rathbone **610** 6/14 initialed letter, 1f, pencil black-edged

in haste not to keep your 29/6/74  
Messenger

Dear Mr. Rathbone

I had written the enclosed ~~note~~  
before your kind ~~let~~ 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.

LRO Rathbone **610** 6/15 unsigned letter, 2ff, pen black-edged

*Private* 35 South St  
Park Lane W

*Miss Lees* July 6/74

**[13:733-34]**

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



proposal after I have seen her.

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=*  
*=pensible -*

[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 }

Nurse 1 B x 40 Cases

visits 24, 27, & 30 cases a day:

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 24 5 daily dressings

3 days a week "cooking days"

2 "general visiting days"

seeing to the "wants of the poor" ? sick

giving bedding

baby clothes

how much is flannel singlets & shirts to poor men going  
Nurse's work? into Hospl

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".

lends 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 Hospl  
 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 " writing letters for them  
 at Patient's request " 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 Infy 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  
 dresses 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"

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

how is it possible to visit "10 worst cases daily"  
"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 } Florence Nightingale  
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.

[13:658]

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.

[end]

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



LRO Rathbone **610** 6/22 signed letter, 4ff, pen, also in 47755 f3, neater,

"St. Katharine's Order for Nurses"  
{printed address:} 10 South Street,  
Park Lane. W.  
June 13/79

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 12

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 ~~in~~ 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.]

-2-

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.



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=  
=ward

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.

Preying 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 Mema, 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? &c

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}



LRO Rathbone **610** 6/26 signed letter, 2ff, pen black-edged

Private Registration of } Nurses  
Board of Trade }  
10, South Street, {printed address:}  
Park Lane. W.  
Feb. 25/91

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

LRO Rathbone **610** 6/27 signed letter, 2ff, pen black-edged

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

LRO Rathbone **610** 6/28 unsigned letter, 2ff, pencil black-edged

Private        *S. Thomas' Meeting*  
                 Feb 26/91  
                 10 South Street, {printed address:}  
                 Park Lane. W.

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, ex (qy 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

LRO Rathbone **610** 6/29 signed letter, 2ff, pencil black-edged

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

LRO Rathbone **610** 6/30 signed letter, 2ff, pencil black-edged

9/3/91

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

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

LRO Rathbone **610** 6/31 signed letter, 2ff, pencil

Monday June 13/98

10, South Street, {printed address:}  
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 -

[6:578]

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

[end 6:578]

LRO Rathbone **610** 6/32 initialed letter, 3ff, pen

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.

Liverpool typed copies

typed copy of signed letter, f3

**f3**

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

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

**f5**

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

**f6**

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.

**f7**

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. ~~b.~~/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 .....

p. 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

**f8**

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

**f9**

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.

typed copy of signed letter, f37

**f37**

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



typed copy of signed letter, ff59-60

**f59**

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,

**f60**

is as strongly impressed as we are, with the vital importance to F. Lees herself of setting to work at once.

typed copy of signed letter, f64

**f64**

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 Perssé 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.

typed copy of unsigned, incomplete letter, f69

**f69**

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 revered 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).

f70, typed copy of University of Wales 37616

typed copy of signed letter, f82

**f82**

10, South Street,  
Park Lane.

W.

March 26, 1887.

Dear Mr. Rathbone,

I don't know how to thank you 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.

typed copy of signed letter, f116

**f116**

10, South Street,  
Park Lane.  
26 March 1900.

[12:574]

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.

[end 12:574]

Ever yours,  
Florence Nightingale.

typed copy of initialed letter fragment, f119

**f119** {archivist: probably written on November 30, 1887}

.... throw upon them, the Committee of Advice, to suggest arrangements", to "keep up the standard" etc., etc., which you can "approve", rather than you make conditions which *they* are to approve.

F.N.

Might I hear from you?

typed copy of letter fragment, f120

**f120** {archivist: No date or address}

.... I trust to see you some afternoon, as you so kindly offer it. I am rather full this week, but you, I daresay, are fuller.

Your beautiful flowering plants have resumed their benevolent course.

Pray believe me,  
Ever gratefully yours,  
Florence Nightingale.

letter, paper copy sent from Liverpool University, from Liverpool Record Office, typed copy 45801 f210

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 ~~de~~ write this  
on April Fool's Day  
Catch me doing their work  
again.

Derbyshire County Record Office, paper copies

Derby, signed letter, 1f, pen

**f1**

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 ~~pi~~ 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, f1, pen

**f2**

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 &  
ancles 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 ~~pi~~ 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

Derby, signed letter, 2ff, pen

**f4**

Lea Hurst [6:632]  
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

**f4v**

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 [6:558]  
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.

Derby, signed with initials letter, 3ff, pen

**f5**

23/8/77

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*

**f5v**

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.

**f5b**

*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.

Derby, signed letter, 1f, pen

**f6**

Lea Hurst  
Cromford

Sept. 12/77

My dear Sir

Would you be so good as to see **[13:284]**

*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.] **[end]**

When may we see you again here?

ever yrs ffully F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq

Derby, signed letter, 1f, pen

**f7**

Lea Hurst

Oct 10/77 **[12:327]**

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*?

**[end 12:327]**

in much haste

yrs sincerely

F. Nightingale

C.B.N Dunn Esq

Derby, signed with initials letter, 1f, pen

**f8**

*Andrew Lee's child*

Oct 7/77

My dear Sir

Many thanks: very many

[12:326]

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.

[end 12:326]

---

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.

Derby, signed letter, 1f, pen

**f9**

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:

[12:327]

[end 12:327]

in haste

yours sincerely

C.B.N. Dunn Esq

F. Nightingale

Derby, signed letter, 1f, pen

**f10**

Lea Hurst

Oct 14/77

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

Derby, signed letter, 3ff, pen

**f11**

*Rose Wren* } {large bracket} *Private Lea Hurst*

Oct 14/77

My dear Sir

A very painful matter to me has arisen:  
*Rose Wren* (whose father is, wonderful to say,  
recovering) is unable to remain in her situation  
"on account of her arm."

1. She states that "Mrs. Horton told ~~her~~ me  
"that Mr. Dunn said that I had scrufula (sic)  
& that it was *infectious*."
2. She has seen "the Doctor that was  
"attending father: and he said that nothing  
"would do it any good but absolute rest: &

**f11v**

"he put a blister on it, & he said it was no  
"use him doing anything to it unless I  
"could rest it, & he said it would take  
"a month if not longer, and I told  
"her & she said a month was a long time  
"but (sic) I am going as soon as she gets  
"suited".

I will not disguise from you my opinion  
that, as long as that figure-head remains,  
no girl can stay with any safety to her health.

**f11a**

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 ~~you~~ I could quote to Mr. & Mrs.

Shore Smith: [I did five copies of yours  
as to 2. 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.

Derby, signed letter, 2ff, pen

**f12**

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

**f12v**

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



Derby, signed letter, 4ff, pen D25462/213}

**f13**

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 **[13:284]** 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,

**f13v**

& ~~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. **[end]**

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

**f13a**

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

Derby, signed letter, 1f, pen

**f14**

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. ffully

F. Nightingale

CBN. Dunn Esq

Derby, signed letter, 1f, pen

**f15**

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

Derby, signed letter, 3ff, pen

**f16**

35 South St.  
Park Lane W.  
Jan 4/78

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

**f16a**

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        **[12:327]**

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

{printed at bottom of page: D2546 2/2 16(1)}

**f16b**

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                        **[end 12:327]**

        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.

Derby, signed letter, 1f, pen

**f17**

35 South St.  
Park Lane W.  
June 25/78

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. **[13:284]**

Would you be so good as to send me my Quarter's  
Acct: & believe me ever yrs ffully **[end]**

C.B.N. Dunn Esq F. Nightingale

Derby, signed letter, 2ff, pen

**f18**

35 South St.  
Park Lane W.  
June 27/78

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

**f18a** {upside down: D25462/218}

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

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 2ff, pen

**f19**

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.

**f19a** {upside down: D25462/219}

Young Widow Prince is much the  
better for your care:

in haste ever yrs faithfully

F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 2ff, pen [1:509]

**f20**

28/8/78

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?

[end 1:509]

---

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

**f20a**

{upside down: D25462/220}

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



Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 3ff, pen

**f21**

3/9/78

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

**f21a**

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

**f21b**

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

Derby, signed letter, 2ff, pen

**f22**

8/9/78

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 & have luncheon at 2 o'clock? Miss Irby is here: & Mr. Jowett. & see your Patient too?

**f22a**

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?

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 bedstead (from the Co-ope Store) which I told them they might order

**f23v**

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:

CBN Dunn Esq

yrs ever faithfully  
F. Nightingale

Derby, signed letter, 3ff, pencil

**f24**

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

**f24v**

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 forbid 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.

**f24a**

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

initialed letter, 1ff, pen

**f25**

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.

Derby, signed letter, 1ff, pen

**f26**

Lea Hurst

Oct. 11/78

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

CBN Dunn Esq

Derby, signed letter, 2ff, pen

**f27**

Lea Hurst  
Oct 13/78

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

**f27v**

{upside down D25462/2 27}

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

Derby, signed letter, 4ff, pen

**f28**

Lea Hurst [1:815]  
Cromford, Derby  
Oct 22/78

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

**f28v**

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 [13:285]  
what is your opinion of her, p  
Since I began this, I have had your kind note.:

**f28a**

do you think that her state is owing to any want of Night Nursing at Buxton Hospital, or to neglect there?

do you know anything of the Nursing at that Hospital? [end]

*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

**f28av**

Medical advice

& oblige yours very sincerely  
F. Nightingale

CBN Dunn Esq

Derby, signed letter, 3ff, pen

**f29**

*Miss Shardlow*

Lea Hurst  
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

**f29v**

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?

**f29a**

*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



letter {1st page only - last page missing}, 1f, pen

**f30**

Lea Hurst  
Nov 3/78

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?

[13:285]

[end]

---

I have failed in my attempt to find a lady

Derby, signed letter, 2ff, pen and pencil

**f31**

Lea Hurst  
Nov. 13/78

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

**f31v**

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

Derby, signed letter, 4ff, pen

**f32**

10 South St  
Park Lane W.  
2/1/79

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*? [13:285]

I am afraid she is none the better for Buxton. [end]

**f32v**

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' [13:80]

**f32a**

2

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'- [end 13:80]

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

**f33v**

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  
not 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.

**ff33a**

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  
*Dolly 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

**f33av** {D25462\330)}

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?

**f33b**

2

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:

**[13:285]**

I hope we shall clear out that abominable place at Buxton. But we must do it

**f33bv**

with quietness & caution.

**[end]**

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 unmurmuring. 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.

**f33c**

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.

**[9:823]****[end 9:823]****f33cv**

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.

letter {signature may be cut off}, 4ff, pen

**f34**

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

CB.N. Dunn Esq

**f34v**

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  
~~at~~ 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

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has gone across to bottom of f34 for CBN Dunn Esq}

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.

**f35a**

{obliquely across L corner}

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

**f35av**

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.

Derby, unsigned letter, 8ff, pen

**f36**

May 24/79

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

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

**f36v**

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)

**f36a**

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:

**f36av**

*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

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tell me *what would be best*

{D25462/237 1}

**36b {?}**

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

**f36c {?}**

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.



**f36cv**

3

*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 summonsing the sons? I am trying to make some

**f36bv**

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?

Derby, signed letter, 1f, pen

[6:558]

**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

Derby, signed letter, 3ff, pen

**f38**

10 South St.  
Park Lane W.  
July 21/79

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

**f38v**

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

Derby, unsigned letter, 4ff, pen

**f40**

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.

**f40v**

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?

**f40a**

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?

**f40av**

I am afraid you will  
think I am never coming to  
an end with my questions:

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 ~~to~~ as Out  
Patient to the Derby Infy.  
What do you think of this?

---

8. Lastly: does the little Platt  
(Alison's grandchild) want

Derby, unsigned letter, 4ff, pen

**f41**

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

**f41v**

in the afternoon: While  
Mrs. Brown could wait~~ed~~ 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.

**f41a**

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<sup>x</sup>

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. Wild=  
=goose's knowledge. You see he says he did not [cut off]



**f41av**

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?

{upside down under the word *water* is her printed address}  
10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE. W.

**[6:558-59]**

{D25462/242}

Derby, unsigned letter, 4ff, pen

**f42**

*PRIVATE*                      Lea Hurst  
{written across the corner Cromford  
with 4 underlines}              Sept. 14/79

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.

**f42v**

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

**f42a**

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*

**f42av**

*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.\* 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.

Derby, signed letter, 7ff, pen

[1:509]

**f43**

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

**f43v**

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.

[end 1:509]

**f43a**

*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?

**f43av**

3. I saw the little Allison or rather Plattts 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

**f43b**

2

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

**f43bv**

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.

**f43c**

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.

Derby, signed letter, 4ff, pen

**f44**

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

**f44v**

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.



**f44a**

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,

**f44av**

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.

[12:328]

[end 12:328]

Derby, unsigned letter, 4ff, pen

**f45**

*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?

**f45v**

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.

**f45a**

*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

**f45av**

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.

Derby, signed letter, 2ff, pen

**f46**

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

**[6:558-59]**

**f46v**

"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?

**[end 6:559]**

in greatest haste  
Yours sincerely  
F. Nightingale

CBN Dunn Esq

Derby, unsigned letter, 4ff, pen

**f47**

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.

**f47v**

But what was her fault is: that she has been allowing her bowels to be irregular: ~~that she has~~ being 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.

**f47a**

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

**f47av**

Prescriptions when we return to London?

And if she may have the Medicine she wishes for, so much the better.

Derby, signed letter, 3ff, pen

**f48**

26/10/79

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

**f48v**

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:

**f48a**

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 ~~it~~ 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

**f49**

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 ~~was~~ became last year 12/ a week. & I am

[13:285-86]



**f49v**

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

**f49a**

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?*

**[end 13:286]**

**f49av**

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 Effervescent Steel.

Pray believe me  
ever yours sincerely  
Florence Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq

Derby, signed letter, 3ff, pen {probably pencil}

**f50**

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

**f50v**

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?

**f50a**

These last days rather  
knock me up:  
yrs sincerely  
F. Nightingale

Derby, signed letter, 4ff, pen

**f51**

Lea Hurst  
Nov 9/79

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,

[5:182]

CBN Dunn Esq

**f51v**

*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

**f51a**

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 Greateorex'* floor: Mr. Yeomans tells me



Derby, signed letter, 3ff, pen

**f52**

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

**f52v**

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.

**f52a**

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}

**f53**

10 South St.  
Park Lane W.  
10/1/80

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

**f53v**

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

**f53a**

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.

**f53bv**

Most glad am I to hear  
of the improvement in  
Buxton Nursing.

**[13:299]**

Could you tell me who  
is the present Matron?  
& where from?

**[end]**

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 -

**f53c**

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

**f54av**

"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,

**f54b**

2

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.*"

**[end 12:329]**

**f54bv**

---

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:

**f54c**

& 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  
Gaul 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

**f54cv**

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

**f55**

{arch: 20/4/80}

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

**f55v**

"moving him." (this is with  
reference to  
x x x 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.

**f55a**

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~~ prisoner - {something was written under the struck-out  
now she is free. prisoner}  
F.N.



Derby, unsigned letter with black-edged paper, 4ff, pen

**f56**

10 South St.  
Park Lane W.  
June 25/80

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

**f56v**

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

initialed private note, no salutation, 2ff, pen  
{is this an enclosure with the above letter?}

**f57**

*Private* {written across corner}

I find that Rose Limb  
has already applied at the  
Mill, & 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.

**f57v**

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.

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 3ff, pen

**f58**

10 South St.  
Park Lane W.  
July 9/80

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

**f58v**

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)

[6:638-39]

**f58a**

& 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

**f59**

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

**f59v**

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

**f59a**

you have so kindly set on  
foot: (in haste)  
Yours most faithfully  
F. Nightingale  
C.B.N. Dunn Esq {at bottom of page}

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 3ff, pen

**f60**

Lea Hurst

Oct 22/80

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

**f60v**

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

**f60a**

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



**f61v**

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?"

**f61a**

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

**f61av**

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

**f62**

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

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 3ff, pen

**f63**

Lea Hurst  
Nov 23/80

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

**f63v**

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.

**f63a**

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]

**f64**

Coffee-room: } Lea Hurst  
Whatstandwell:} Nov 27/80

Mr dear Sir  
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

**f64v**

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?

[end 1:510]

To start with the smallest  
in place of the largest  
outlay would seem  
wise in an undertaking

**f64a**

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,

**f64av**

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

**[1:510]****f64b****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

**[end 1:510]****[1:510]****f64bv**

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}

**f64c**

I return Miss Hurt's  
letter with thanks:

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 1f, pen

**f65**

Lea Hurst  
Dec 1/80

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 ffully yours

F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 2f, pen

**f66**

Lea Hurst  
Dec 2/80

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 ankle,  
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



Derby, signed note on small, black-edged paper, 1f, pen

**f68**

*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

Derby, signed page without salutation, 1f, pencil, black-edged paper

**f69**

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 any thing. [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

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 6ff, pen

**f70**

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

**f70a**

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.

**f70b**

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 a 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?

**f70bv**

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.

**f70av**

Will you be kind  
enough 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

**f70c**

up her house.  
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?

Derby, signed letter with black-edged paper, 5ff, pen and pencil  
{f3 - the paper is turned sideways}

**f71**

10 South St.  
Park Lane W.  
1/1/81

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

**f71v**

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

**f71a** {paper turned sideways}

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?

**f71b**

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 {this and f70bv pencil}  
tolerably well: & Mrs. Limb  
& Mrs. Broomhead not suffering  
too much from the cold. Would

**f71bv**

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

[6:647]

**f72**

29/10

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."

**f72v**

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.

**f72a**

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.

**f72b separate letter, starts pen****[6:647-48]**

2

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.



**f72bv**

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.

**f72c**

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

**f72cv**

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

Derby, signed letter {small paper}, 2ff, pen

**f73**

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

Feb 28/84

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

**f73v or f73a**

"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

Derby, unsigned letter, small stationery, 2ff, pen

**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~~him, & 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, & ~~I that~~ Mr. S.S. may not be troubled just now.

Derby, signed letter {f75 & f75b with black-edged paper}, 7ff, pen

**f75**

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

**f75v**

so. 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?

**f75a**

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.

**f75b** {this page black-edged}

2

I have been so engaged attending Sir Harry Verney who 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

**f75e**

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

Derby, signed letter, 3ff, pen

**f76**

July 22/84

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

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.

**f76v**

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.

**f76a**

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



Derby, signed letter, small sheets, 2ff, pen

**f77**

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

**f77a**

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 inflamn  
in my eyes -

every your faithful servt

F. Nightingale

C.B.N. Dunn Esq

Derby, signed letter with the first pages missing, 5ff, pen

**f78**

2. 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  
{D2546} continue.

**f78v**

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:

" Holmes

{Widow Marsh

{ " Barton: (Meat

4 { L. Peach: (Meat

{Ant. Boden

Sisters Allen: 2 (Meat

Mrs. Brown: (Meat

Betty Broom

**f78a**

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.

**f78av**

& 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.

**f78b**

5

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.



**f80v?**

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 ~~apl~~ medicine, will kindly let me pay for this.

3. I am very glad that *Bratby* has sought your aid which I have been always urging him to do on my Acct -

**f80a**

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

**f80b**

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.

**f80d**

3

9 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.]

**f80e**

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



**f80f**

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

**f81**

2

4.

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

**f81a**

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.

**f81b**

{Private is written across the corner}

*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 {"one has" is written over "I have"}  
has not heard of anything  
worse) between the Students  
or young Doctors & young  
ladies who are very young.  
I merely give you this hint.

Derby, signed letter, first page black-edged, 3ff, pencil

**f82**

Claydon Ho: Sept 23/90

Winslow

Bucks 10, SOUTH STREET, {printed address crossed out  
PARK LANE.W. with 1 diagonal stroke}

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

**f82v**

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, ~~±~~  
~~would~~ either immediately  
from Mr. Yeomans for

**f82a**

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]

