

# **Letters to Miss Amy Hughes, Superintendent of the Nurses' Cooperation**

## **Publication/Creation**

1892-1901

## **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/kek4pqky>

## **License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

5478/1/1

Feb. 27/92

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Miss Hughes

I hope I may give  
yourself & ourselves joy  
of your being where you  
are on this the first  
occasion of my troubling  
you.

Does any of your  
District Nurses include  
in her beat 170  
Buckingham Palace Road?

An old soldier who  
has been my Mesanger  
for 13 years lies there  
with heart complaint.

and I am afraid small  
chance of recovery.

He is not at all desolate;  
he has a good wife  
who attends upon him  
night & day. [I don't  
suppose there is much of  
what we call Nursing]

I don't know how long she  
will be able to stand this.

It would be a great  
relief to me if a trained  
District Lady could visit  
him. I suggest what  
she may see to be wanting  
& what she thinks the

best means of supplying  
it.

She must be very judicious,  
please, for I doubt whether  
the wife would like  
even an Archangel's  
interferences.

He is sometimes delicious.

She has a sister of her  
own who sometimes  
helps her, I believe.

in haste

yours sincerely

Florence Nightingale

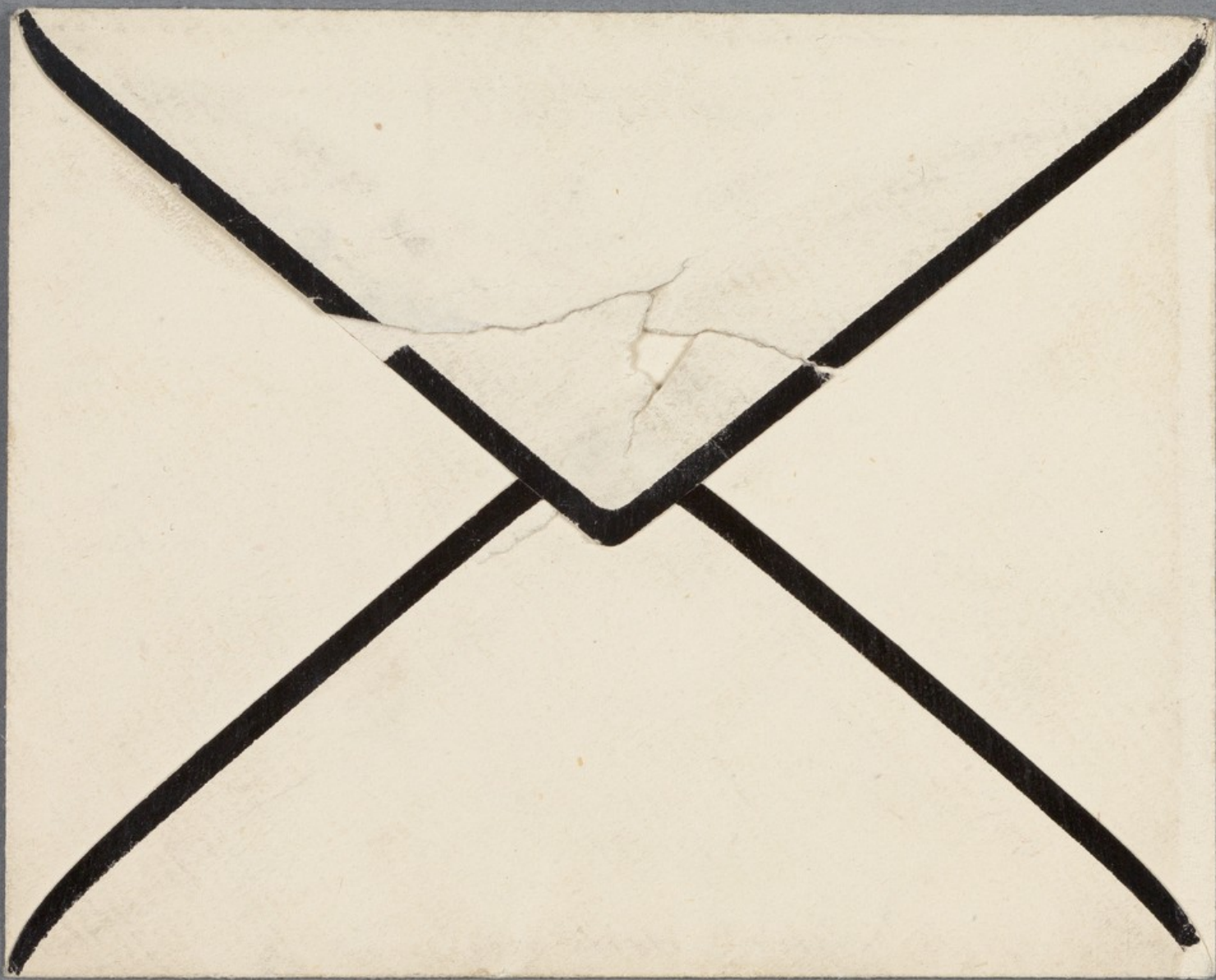


5478 1/2

Miss Hughes  
(or the Sup<sup>t</sup>)  
23 Bloomsbury Square

Thringale  
27/2/92 }





5478/2

July 30/92

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Miss Hughes

May I hope that you  
will be able to fix some  
afternoon next week  
about 5 or 6 o'clock  
for you to give me  
the pleasure of seeing  
you?

Might I ask if you  
could kindly lend me  
a copy of Mrs. Raven's  
"Guide to District Nursing"  
for a few hours,

Lending it by messengers?

I must have given ~~it~~  
away all my copies - for  
I cannot find one -  
And I want to show  
it to a lady this  
afternoon -

Love yours faithfully

Florence Nightingale



5478/3/1

23/12/92

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE. W.

My dear Miss Hughes  
A little bundle of  
Christmas things - & a  
large load - too big for  
the Rail-road to carry -  
of Christmas love &  
greetings to you & all  
yours & your work.

God bless you -

Hoping to see you soon

Ever yours sincerely

Florence Nightingale

5478/3/2

With 1 doz Prince Peas  
& a bunch of Xmas  
greenery

Miss Hughes  
23 Bloomsbury Square

Xmas

5478/4

June 5/94

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Hughes

It is not "importunity" on  
your part which you have  
to apologize for but overwork  
on my part which I have  
to apologize for to your  
kindness. And I am very  
sorry to have delayed so long.

I have read your excellent  
Articles on District Nursing  
which you kindly sent me  
in the "Hospital" Nos.  
I gratefully accept your  
wish to "dedicate" them to me  
when "arranged" & "reprinted"  
as a "Manual". tho' I have  
always before declined  
such applications.



You might perhaps wish  
to add a few things if  
you reach a 2<sup>d</sup> Edit.  
I hope this Manual will  
raise the ideas of District  
Nurses. I quite agree  
with you that the tendency  
now is to lower the whole  
standard.

You are so good as to  
write me "to write a few  
words." Will you allow  
me to consider whether I  
can? In that case I  
would ask for the articles  
on District Nursing in a

file to be kindly sent  
me again  
With many a God speed  
believe me  
Ever yours sincerely & hopefully  
J. Nightingale

5478/5

July 27/94

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

Dear Miss Hughes

Good speed on your well-  
earned holiday

You know of course that  
Miss Barff, Matron of the  
District Nurses in Salford,  
has resigned, because about  
to be married. And the  
Ladies Committee have written  
to me for a successor, who  
must be, of course, "thoroughly  
trained both in Hospital &  
District Nursing" - Salary £80,  
"all found". All applications  
to be sent in by August 2  
to Miss Potter

Hon. Sec.

The Salford District Nurses' Home

I have answered that I  
would forward the application  
to the "proper quarters"  
& regretted that they had  
only given "a week's notice"

God bless you  
yours ever sincerely  
F. Nightingale



5478/6

April 2/95

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE. W.

Dear Miss Hughes

I can't say I shall  
be glad to see you to  
wish you good bye,  
for I go on at your  
departure loud enough  
to be heard at Bolton

But what must be,  
must ~~be~~ <sup>Friday</sup> And I will  
keep April 5 free  
at 2 after 5 o'clock,  
if that is quite suitable  
to you - yours in grief  
& groaning & sighing

5478/7

Strictly  
Confidential

Sept 1/96

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Hughes  
Tho' I am distracted with  
business - & in addition to this,  
Miss Crossland leaves us  
to-day after 21 years of  
entire devotion to her  
Robationary with the noblest  
faculties,

I have read thro' your  
Proof with the greatest  
care & made 3 sheets  
of annotations on it.

I will only make one  
now:

Is it not impossible  
for me to write a Preface

as you request, unless  
you make the Standard,  
Bloomsbury as it was  
when you began there,  
the standard first &  
foremost? & then afterwards  
put in whatever can be  
sanctioned about what  
you <sup>now</sup> make the Standard?

I think, you know, that  
it is against your "paper"  
that you have left the  
cause - And it will either  
be said what has been  
said by several, with  
more or less truth, that

you left it, because  
you disapproved the  
present standard - or that  
your whole appreciation  
of the higher standard,  
which you did so much  
for, is lowered; will it  
not be so?  
ever yours

Quite  
private



had received, in addition,  
three months Midwifery  
training, with a view to their  
being made proficient (as far  
as possible) in attendance on  
the mother & infant after the  
period of lying in, and to  
qualifying them to act as  
Midwives in cases of  
emergency. The first  
arrangement with the Rural  
Nursing Ass<sup>n</sup> did provide  
for the employment of Nurses  
as such, as a separate class  
from the District Nurses, but  
did not contemplate their  
employment (otherwise than  
exceptionally & casually) as  
Sick Nurses. Mr. B.C. thinks  
therefore I am justified in my

*Private*

5478/8/1

Sept 8/96

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Hughes

I am so very sorry for  
our delay - <sup>But I could</sup>  
not answer <sup>wholly or correctly</sup> Without consulting  
Mr. Bonham Carter about  
facts as well as opinions.  
And he is so occupied, like  
me, but always willing to help

We both agree that the  
bulk of your paper is excellent  
- that part which deals with  
District Nursing, as you knew  
it, & were taught to carry  
it out at the "Metrop." & "Nation"  
(now called by a somewhat  
hasty motion "Metropolitan"  
only)

Mr. Bonham Carter, who does not object to my using his name, does not pretend to express an opinion about the details of the Midwifery part. He still thinks that the reference in the first pages to the Queen's Jubilee Institute might be modified so as to meet my objection that it commits me to what I consider an approval of a lower standard of Nursing.

But when you come to the arrangements of the Institute for Country Nursing,

\* See small sheet 1 and 2

you scarcely show yourself cognizant of the difficulties they have had to encounter with the Rural Nursing Ass<sup>n</sup> & the Lincolnshire Nursing Assoc<sup>n</sup> in attempting to combine District Nursing in country places with Midwifery practice, by the employment of trained Midwifery Nurses as Sick Nurses. You in fact treat the subject - (i.e. the action taken by the Queen's Institute in the matter of Rural Nursing) as it was, when carried on under the original Regulations, that is to say by means only of fully trained Nurses, who



viz. that you should confine  
the subject matter of the  
"paper" to District Nursing by  
fully trained Nurses as  
carried on by the "Metrop." &  
"National," & extended upon the  
same basis by the Queen's  
Institutes, as you knew it.

That you should treat the  
question of extension of District  
Sick Nursing to Country places  
which cannot afford the cost  
of a trained Nurse as an  
open question.

That you might refer to  
the advantage of providing  
trained Midwives for such  
places - & tack on your Essay  
on Midwifery Nursing as a  
guide for that object.

2

5478/8/2

criticisms on this part of  
the "paper" or rather  
on those parts of the "paper"  
in which the action of the  
Queen's Institutes as to rural  
Nursing & Maternity practice  
is referred to with commendation  
as affording the best means  
of attaining the object desired.

Mr. B.C. does not see the  
way so to alter the paper,  
(so far as regards this part  
of the subject) as to be able  
to meet the criticisms I have  
made. See Small Sheet 2.

We & I are both well aware  
of the fact that you were  
enthusiastic (& this makes it  
the more difficult for us to speak

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.



at Bloomsbury Square in  
making arrangements for  
enabling the Nurses while at  
Bloomsbury & during their  
ordinary period of training,  
to attend dying-in cases  
(not to undertake the case but  
to be present with one of the  
Nurse Instructors & to render  
assistance - a Doctor being there)

It may be desirable that  
every Midwife should be a  
trained Sick Nurse & that  
every Sick Nurse should  
have a competent knowledge  
of Midwifery practice - but  
at any rate at present  
& so far as most localities  
are concerned, certainly in  
~~the~~ Country & also in most

town districts, the pecuniary  
difficulty renders this  
idea quite impracticable  
and it is the pecuniary  
difficulty which comes in  
especially in Country places  
- towns being far better  
provided thro' the Medical  
men with attendance on  
dying-in cases

The upshot of all this is  
that Mr. B.C. has no  
practical suggestion to make  
with a view to my meeting  
your wishes that I should  
write a Preface beyond  
this which he hardly thinks  
practicable & which he has no  
desire to urge upon me

5478/8/3

Proof

Mr. B.C.'s Pencil 10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

note on p. 1 is not legible  
yet it might be of use to  
you - It runs thus:

"To the Metropolitan &  
National Nursing Assoc<sup>n</sup>  
Bloomsbury Square, London,  
and to Miss Florence Lees  
(Mrs. Dacre Craven) as  
first Superintendent the  
credit is due of having  
organized a system of  
District Nursing by educated  
women duly trained as  
Hospital Nurses, who were  
also specially trained in

"Nursing the Poor in  
their own homes"

p. 2. "The <sup>2</sup>Standard of  
the Nat. & Med. N. Association  
& its plan of work afterwards  
adopted as a model &  
extended in its operations  
by the G. V. F. Institute for  
Nurses were designed &c

---

The proposed dedication  
to me is spoilt by the  
introduction of the word  
"glory". But I suppose  
the dedication would  
come out if no preface



Experienced Supt and  
a real Home - Supply  
& Supervision

p. 2 - Midwifery "Nurses"  
"other patients"

"Laudation of Inspection"

p. 3 - top. Laudation of  
Sabbath Nurses

"Obstetric & Monthly  
Nursing

"Laudation of Antiseptic  
not much said  
about aseptic -

"is it to be Midwifery &  
Fever Nursing

"character of Nurse  
very good

5478/8/4

Small Sheet 2

I  
It is scarcely worth  
while to trouble you  
with what my "criticisms"  
have been, were it not  
to elucidate the two  
larger sheets.

I asked whether the Q.V.G.  
had made up the action  
of the Queen's Institute as  
to rural Nursing &  
Maternity practice  
what you think it  
And I commented on  
your word "professedly"

I asked whether they  
had made it a reality.

The large part of your  
paper is admirable.

But it takes so much  
for granted

### Proof

p. 1. General Hints - very good  
(no alms giving &  
insufficient training)

p. 2 first half good  
Second "

" Jubilee Nurses as a  
Standard astonishing  
placing & affiliation  
astonishing

" Object of the "Home" is  
missed - It is not for  
letting the Nurses dispute  
or discuss with one another  
("friction") - It is for  
them to have an

- the Nurse has not  
recognised an "abnormal"  
case when she has  
seen it - No, not even  
with a triumphant  
d. B. S. certificate  
p. 10. c. - then comes the  
word "Midwife" - What  
is a Midwife?

p. 10 d. - "terrible mortality"  
is it so?

the after consequences of  
ill managed, uncleanly  
"childbirth" are "terrible"  
enough without  
the word "mortality".

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

5478/8/5  
Small sheet 3  
p. 3. - Some Nurses now  
adopt the cycle  
"hair" & "neatness" very  
good

p. 7. IV "Hygiene"  
Generally good

p. 8 Good. Not Smells  
but their causes are  
reasonful

also caution  
lest the Nurse should  
be denounced to Doctor  
by Patient without  
understanding  
Should not the Nurse



once, if necessary, clean  
the room <sup>herself</sup> as to exhibit  
it perfectly clean -

p. 9. Food  
boiled saw-dust } good  
stewed tea }  
babies } good  
but difficulty of getting  
milk - I move } not  
least, in country -  
overlooked.

boiling all milk doubtful  
so many dislike boiled  
milk & many doctors  
say "only up to the boil"

p. 10. v Maternity work  
So much here is taken  
for granted

a. first: are the Q.V.F.  
settled as to Maternity  
work?

b. It is always laid down  
she is to take none but  
normal cases without  
the least enquiry whether  
she has had any chance  
of seeing or recognizing  
an "abnormal" case.

What are the Statistics  
of the proportion of  
abnormal & normal  
cases?

p. 13 VI Advice to  
Nurses Good

p. 14 Is not "India rubber  
tubing" difficult to keep  
clean

p. 15 - good

p. 21 very good remark  
that it is dishonourable  
to be quacking while  
Doctor is treating

In one or two places,  
lung comes in good  
English, then cardiac,  
renal, &c

5478/8/6

4  
Was not the word  
"mortality" of lying  
in Hosp<sup>ls</sup> far higher than  
of any lying-in at home?

p. 11 - If we are to go  
in for Maternity cases,  
should there not be a  
strong caution not only  
as to "ticks" but as to  
feather or flock beds  
which may not have  
been picked to pieces  
for years, during which  
2 or 5 lying-ins may have  
taken place thereon

A fatal case of Pyæmia  
in the mother had its  
origin in this - And is  
it not common for the  
infant to be placed  
under the bed-cloth  
on such a feather bed?

p. 11 - Attention to  
Child's Eyes - very good

Toon perineum -

Yes - & the Certificate  
of the L. B. S. is no  
safe-guard against  
this.

p. 11 "The Binder"

"after care" very good  
- attendance" twice daily  
is quite necessary  
trained! Midwives who  
come only for the Delivery  
& twice more during  
the month.

[I have now gone  
thru' Midwifery Nursing  
bit by bit.]



~~4~~ 3

5478/8/7

A great deal of this  
is uncommonly good  
But could I write  
a Preface, as requested,  
till I know whether  
"Lubilee" nurses are  
to be the "Standard"  
1 2. Whether Maternity  
Nursing is to be so  
prominent &  
decided upon

p. 9 { Marginal

Miss Hughes' proof { m. s. Note

The "disagreeable" taste is not the only or even the principal objection to boiled milk -

Sham ~~persons~~ <sup>persons</sup> say: Boil all your milk  
 Real ~~persons~~ <sup>persons</sup> say: Cold boiled milk  
 is a ~~totally~~ <sup>very</sup> different article from Fresh cold milk.

If you separate the skim from the milk you separate a most important ~~element~~ <sup>ingredient</sup>. You must <sup>then</sup> cut up the skim & put it back into the milk. And what a mess that is!

If you can't persuade your cook or cooks not to boil your milk but to stop at the boil, what is to be done?

[The Irish give cold milk]

*Insertion  
Proof  
p. 9*

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE. W.



5478/9

God speed you  
ever your affectionate

F.N.

I put in pencil -  
legibly, I hope - on my  
first little sheet -  
Mr. B.C.'s <sup>illegible</sup> suggestions,  
on p.p. 1 and 2 of your  
Boof, for additions  
which are important  
& which <sup>suggestions</sup> might be  
useful to you

Private

Sept 10/96

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Hughes  
I sent you a Budget  
yesterday - I wish I  
could have sent a  
Budget which I could  
feel would be more  
entirely pleasing to  
you. But we have done  
what we could & give  
you the exact <sup>facts</sup> truth.  
I put: "Mr. B.C. has  
"No objection to his name  
"being given", I should

have put 'given to you'  
'if it would be any  
'help to me' For  
of course he could not  
be expected to discuss  
in public - or with  
any one but me for you  
- the difficulties of  
the Q. V. J. <sup>Dignity</sup> Nursing  
Apoc<sup>n</sup>

I wish I could have  
had time to work  
up at the end my  
four little sheets on

your Proof. But it  
was hardly worth  
troubling you with  
them - only that you  
would wonder what  
my "criticisms" were  
which had to be <sup>justified</sup>  
or explained -

And now God bless  
your "paper" & make  
it useful to your  
generation which if  
it is perfectly true  
& facts it must be

or not does not afford  
any solution to the difficulty  
and we are told that these  
districts cannot afford  
to employ fully trained  
nurses. Hence the state-  
ments in Miss Hughes'  
paper referring to the  
Scheme of the Queen's  
Jubilee Institute as  
fully meeting the require-  
ments of country districts  
for trained Sick Nurses  
are not borne out -  
The proposal, he says, to  
call these Midwifery Nurses

Your Proof  
& letter

~~Private~~

5478/10/1

Sept 24/96

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Hughes

This is a letter begun  
ten days ago, which I think  
may be useful to you -

This is Mr. B C's remark:  
As to Miss Hughes' observation  
that "about country work  
"I meant Miss Oldham's  
"pace not Lincolnshire - that  
"ought not to count for the  
"Cottage Nurses are only  
"monthly Nurses

the fact is that the Rural  
Nursing Association employs  
or allows to be employed a



Certain number of Midwifery Nurses on the same footing as to Sick Nursing as the Lincolnshire Assoc<sup>n</sup> does, the proportion of these Nurses to the Queen's Nurses employed by the Rural Nursing Assoc<sup>n</sup> is much smaller than is the case with the Lincolnshire but is not, Mr. B.C. thinks, by any means a negligible quantity - Lady Selborne, if he recollects aright is mainly responsible for the employment of these Midwifery Nurses. But he

has not the paper by him to refer to.

At any rate the difficulty exists with regard to both & gives rise to the question: how are the poorer districts to be supplied with Sick Nursing which cannot be set aside by saying that monthly Nurses may be called cottage Nurses & therefore do not count. The fact remains that they are being employed as Sick Nurses (whether by the Queen's Jubilee Institute

5478/10/2

2 Private

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

Who do elementary  
Sick Nursing on  
rather who have received  
some instruction in  
elementary Sick Nursing,  
Cottage Nurses has  
already been made  
but does not appear  
to him to afford any  
sufficient solution of  
the difficulty.

If they are trained  
Midwifery Nurses, they  
should be identified  
by the nature of their

Calling The Lincolnshire  
agreement provider  
that they should be  
style Midwife  
Nurses.

Excuse haste  
I have no time to  
answer yours last  
to day. or to  
correct this.



it.

He cannot do anything more -

The rest of the Proof may, he thinks, pass

Besides the Proof & his two pages there is also a M.S. note of mine upon Milk, p. 9 of Proof, of which I say, like him - with this indication you may certainly improve upon it.

God speed you  
Yours sincerely  
F.R.

5478/11

Oct 20/96

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

*Private*

My dear Miss Hughes

We, i.e. Mr. B.C. and I, return your Proof & with it three (large paper) pages as an alternative A.p.p. 14 & 14 continued

These are almost entirely or entirely by Mr. B.C.

- (1) I presume that you would concur with Mr. B.C. & me in wishing the reference to Midwives' legislation to be omitted
- (2) To our minds the

objection raised to the  
former proof arose out of  
the reference there made  
to the Nursing in Country  
districts as having been  
successfully provided for  
by the Queen's Jubilee  
Institute. When as a  
matter of fact Midwifery  
Nurses without training  
in Sick Nursing or with  
only very elementary  
training were being so  
employed.

Mr. B. C. has endeavoured  
to bring out this objection

in an indirect way.

Your M.S. as it stands  
hardly refers to this, but  
makes much of the  
objection to employing  
any Sick Nurses in  
Midwifery practice.

This of course we both  
agree upon.

Mr. B. C. cannot say that  
his M.S. satisfies himself  
but he thinks it indicates  
more clearly than yours  
the danger to be encountered.

With this indication you  
may perhaps improve upon

5478/12

Oct. 20/96

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Hughes  
I should be very  
Sorry not to see you  
now that you are in  
London -

I will send you your  
Proof - with all that we  
can do, done to it -  
in a day or two -

And I will try to  
make an appointment  
that will suit you  
about Thursday or



Friday afternoons.

Yours most sincerely

F. Nightingale

5478/13

Oct 21/96  
10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

Dear Miss Hughes

Will 5-8'clock  
tomorrow (Thursday)  
afternoon suit you?  
Or is it too late?

I want to hear  
about Bolton -

Yours sincerely  
F. Nightingale

learned Dispensing  
myself abroad, when  
such a thing was not  
known in England for  
women - And I have  
practised it on a small  
scale in a small Dispensary  
in London - But comparing  
it with the education <sup>now</sup>  
required of Dispensers,  
I considered this to be  
risky, and would not  
sanction it, unless with a  
Dispenser's education.

All Success be with you  
I have always maintained

5478/14

Oct 28/96

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Hughes  
I am afraid you will  
think me very dilatory  
in answering your question.  
But your kindness must  
excuse me, for I have  
been so busy.

I think that if you  
still wish for the  
"dedication" to me, it  
should be modified thus,  
omitting reference to my  
"assistance"



Dedicated by permission  
to Miss Florence Highlingale  
With deep gratitude for her  
kindly interest in this attempt  
to help my fellow-workers  
in the service of the poor

I would, however,  
please, stipulate further  
that ~~you~~ my name is  
not to be made use of  
further in any way  
in connection with  
the publication

God Speed you on  
your way. You are  
giving a splendid  
education to these  
Workhouse Nurses -  
but take care that it  
is thorough. E.g. I have

5478 / 15

May 2/97

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Hughes

Let me thank you very  
much for sending me  
your little book, which  
will be, I am sure, very  
successful.

I have been thanking  
you in my heart all  
this time: but the  
difficulty is with me,  
as you know, to find a moment  
to write, except on business.  
Yours ever affectionately  
F. Nightingale

in writing  
to answer these questions  
immediately, I should  
be so much obliged to you.  
But if after that you  
kindly wished to  
communicate with me,  
for her, on things which  
can hardly be written.

I would gladly see you  
tomorrow (Saturday) at  
5 - or Sunday at the  
same hour. if you  
would let me know as  
once - Am I trespassing too  
much? Love yours sincerely  
F. Nightingale

5478/16

Sept 24/97

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

My dear Miss Amy Hughes  
An English Lady, Miss  
Turton, came here yesterday  
by appointment.

She came from Italy  
where she has done a  
great work quietly in  
raising Italian Nursing.  
She is returning to Italy  
in a hurry for the October  
term.

She is anxious to know  
how we manage  
Co-operative Nurses, in



order to do likewise -  
And for fear of making  
a mistake I promised  
her that I would go  
to the fountain-head -  
namely, yourself.

1. She wanted to know  
how payment of the  
Co-operative Nurses was  
managed by the Institution  
- how the wages were  
adjudged.

2 (if there was a Home)  
how their payment for  
room & board were

managed, whether  
deducted from their  
earnings.

3. She asked a more  
general question - how  
influence was secured  
& a high tone kept  
up among the Nurses  
who did not lodge  
(between their places)  
immediately under the  
eye & supervision of  
their Superintendents.  
If you could find time

5478/17

23/12/98

10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

Miss Hughes  
with F.H.'s very best  
Christmas love  
& thanks & hopes for  
the New Year

Thank you for Miss  
Dorothy's letter

5478/18/1

May 17/1900  
10, SOUTH STREET,  
PARK LANE, W.

Dearest Miss Amy Hughes  
How can I thank you  
for the lovely little red  
rose tree you sent me?  
It was so good of you  
to remember me -

Wishing all joy to the  
Co-operatives [is the red  
rose-tree a Co-operative?]

I am all yours

Thightyall  
I hope the Co-operatives



Mrs. approved their  
new quarters on inspection  
d this nice little  
separate rooms

God speed them all

FN-

Miss Amy Hughes  
The Nurses' Co-operation  
8 New Cavendish St.  
Portland Place  
W.

17/5/1900

5478/18/2

5478/19/1

June 15 1901

10, SOUTH STREET,

PARK LANE, W.

Dear Miss Hughes

Certainly I would give  
permission to have this  
copied, if you wish it.

But you will have to apply  
to Mr. Payne, Photographer,  
Hylsbury, as it is copyright.  
And I believe also you must  
apply to Lady Verney

Claydon House  
Wimbor - Bucker

Yours faithfully Florence Nightingale



Miss Amy Hughes

5478/1912

5478/20/1

My first meeting with Miss Florence Nightingale was in 1885. I entered St. Thomas's Hospital as a probationer in 1884, and as at that time the period of training was 12 months, it was usual for those who had completed this, and were remaining in the Hospital, to be interviewed by Miss Nightingale. I went to her house, 10, South Street, Park Lane, and was most kindly received by her. She then discussed my future, and told me she had come to the conclusion I ought to become a District Nurse. This was a great surprise to me, as I was hoping eventually to become a Sister in the Hospital and had never thought of taking up district work. But Miss Nightingale described the opportunities and openings for national welfare in such an inspiring way, I felt I must accept her decision. I therefore went to the District Nurses' Home at Bloomsbury in the Autumn of 1885, and had the honour of seeing Miss Nightingale every year for quite a long period. She always took the keenest interest in the work, and liked to hear details of the patients. One always came away inspired and strengthened.

I received an urgent request to accept the post of Superintendent of Nurses at the Workhouse Infirmary, Bolton, Lancashire in 1895, and though Miss Nightingale regretted my leaving district nursing, she agreed the experience in dealing with the special class of patients would be very valuable.

April 2, 1895.

10 South Street,  
Park Lane.

Dear Miss Hughes,

I can't say I shall be glad to see you to wish you goodbye, for I groan at your departure loud enough to



be heard at Bolton. But what must be, must, and I will keep Friday, April 5th, free at and after 5 o'clock if that is quite suitable to you.

Yours in grief and groaning,  
F. NIGHTINGALE.

I drew up a little book called "Practical Hints on District Nursing" and Miss Nightingale took the greatest interest in it. I have quite a number of letters from her, recommending alterations in the proof and she allowed me to dedicate it to her, herself writing the exact words "dedicated by permission to Miss Florence Nightingale with deep gratitude for her kindly interest in this attempt to help my fellow-workers in the Service of the Poor" in a letter dated October 28, 1896.

On May 2, 1897, Miss Nightingale wrote:-

Dear Miss Hughes,

Let me thank you very much for sending me your little book, which will be, I am sure, very successful. I have been thanking you in my heart all this time, but the difficulty is with me, as you know, to find a moment to write, except on business.

Yours ever affectionately,  
F. NIGHTINGALE.

In 1897 I became Superintendent of the Nurses' Co-operation, and in September that year Miss Nightingale asked me to come and see her. She was most interested in the work, and asked me to answer several points that had been put to her by a lady who had been organising Italian nursing. I was able to give the information needed and Miss Nightingale was most sympathetic.

In May, 1900, she wrote:



Dearest Miss Amy Hughes,

How can I thank you for the lovely little red rosettes you sent me? It was so good of you to remember me. Wishing all joy to the Co-operatives,

I am,

All yours,

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

I hope the Co-operation Nurses approved their new quarters on inspection, and their nice little separate rooms.

God speed them all.

F.N.

In 1901 I returned to work with the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, much to Miss Nightingale's satisfaction.

She saw me, and expressed her pleasure that I was again carrying out the work she wished me to do. In 1902, she asked me to arrange for a good district nurse to attend an old soldier who had been her messenger for 13 years, and she was much interested in hearing what was done for him.

I was allowed to visit Miss Nightingale every year. She used to receive me in her charming room at 10, South Street. She was lying on a sofa, and I used to sit beside her, and answer her questions and tell her all about my work. This went on for years. Her memory was wonderful, and her interest never failed. Gradually, however, her increasing age became very noticeable, as she was both physically and mentally weaker; and my last visit, in 1908, was rather pathetic when I remembered what the visits used to be, and the help and inspiration I always received.

I conclude by quoting an extract from a letter to Miss Florence Nightingale Shore, written in 1897, which sums up her



5478/20/4

4

views on district nursing:-

"I think District Work brings one more in heartfelt contact with one's fellow-creatures than anything else. And when one knows that doctors who know say that the mere visits of the Nurses diminish the mortality, one thanks God Who puts such God-like powers into our hands, provided they are genial hands."

AMY HUGHES.