

## Letters to various correspondents 1870-1874

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well as a sufficiency of  
surgeons.

It is urgently requested that  
local sub-committees of  
ladies should be formed  
for the purpose of  
collecting such like articles.

With every kind wish  
for your success in the  
deeds of your hearts.

Pray believe me

Madam

Ever your faithful servant

Florence Nightingale

Miss Alice Rowland  
Leeds

5482/84

67353

Aug 30/70

Madam

I hasten to answer your  
note of Aug 25<sup>th</sup>, which I  
have only just received.

I sympathize most deeply  
with your desire to help  
the wounded in this awful  
war.

May I beg to suggest  
that you apply to the  
"Society for Aid to Sick & Wounded"  
2 St. Martin's Place  
London W.C.

where you will receive & give  
every information, & where  
the names & qualifications  
are registered of ladies

willing & volunteers as Nurses.

None are sent except on a written application for them from some authority of either Belligerent.

The Society requires some Hospital experience, besides being able to speak & write French or German, & an engagement to the Society - which pays expenses in some instances.

I wish you God speed with all my heart & soul in your desire to be of use. There is an use which almost every lady can be of

in this dreadful overflowing of Wounded which has baffled all calculation, & which appeals to all who can do anything for them. This is to Collect.

Any of the Articles of which I enclose a list & to transmit them to the Storekeeper.

2 St. Martin's Place  
London W.C.

Enough cannot be sent to the Wounded on both sides. We are earnestly solicited for more & more. In many of the Field Hospitals all appliances are wanting - as



even I could have imagined.

Some who have seen that  
kind of thing on a small  
scale (for really now I  
look upon the Crimean War  
<sup>& the American War</sup>  
as on a small scale) - been  
startled of its horrors.  
You cannot think how  
unutterably hideous &  
ghastly this War is. &  
this unimaginable carnage -  
it is not a War but a  
massacre.

Neither do I believe that the  
Hospital & Medical  
arrangements on either  
side, French or German,  
or of their Aid Societies,

received  
26 Sept

5482/85/1

52332

8<sup>th</sup> September 1870

My dear Miss Torrance  
I hope you will know  
that I have never ceased  
to think of you & your  
work - which is one of the  
pleasanteest contemplations,  
tho' an anxious one, I have.  
& that I can never forget  
what is ever present (& my  
mind & heart).

I think of you as you  
will be by, I suppose,  
Michaelmas - & how great  
a work you have undertaken  
in God's name - And I hope



that you will be so good as  
to remind me to do  
what you want - Anything  
I can.

I have been & am so busy,  
as you perhaps may have  
supposed, in the "Red  
Cross" for the sick &  
wounded in this awful storm  
of war which darkens the  
world. No place there  
was such confusion in  
efforts to aid, that  
it was almost despairing  
work. But God has put  
things to rights. And I do

think real & efficient  
help is being given from  
here at the different  
battle fields. Even if you  
have time to read the  
accounts in the "Times",  
you cannot conceive the  
horrible details we have  
from the Agents of our  
"Society".

At Flanders on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
there was "a space of 4  
miles by 8 covered with  
the dead & wounded". And  
the sight of the French  
wounded, perhaps inevitable,  
after the battles of the 16<sup>th</sup>  
& 18<sup>th</sup> surpassed every thing



Try & tell you only  
what you will not hear  
from the papers.

We have now 45 Surgeons  
& Agents at work on the  
spot, & at the two Centres  
of the most pressing  
suffering.

I could not tell you the  
difficulties we have  
ourselves had to struggle  
with in organizing anything  
useful & in establishing  
communications.

Here in Ireland as well  
as there we have been  
very much touched by the  
excessive kindness of  
poor people, Rational

5482/85/2 2

52332

Can have been so good as was  
said - as such awful want  
of every necessity could not  
have been seen so long  
after each battle (among  
those who could not be  
removed by Rail).

The contributions which flow  
in ~~in~~ now to our Society  
are most generous &  
unwearied. Still there is  
no pause in the pressure &  
need - every week has  
doubled the numbers &  
recipients - they were so  
unparalleled & unforeseen  
- & the numbers passed  
all calculation (of wounded  
& sick.)



We have now depots not only at Luxembourg but at other places. We pour in about 4 tons a day of light goods by the quick train - concentrated meat, biscuit, other food, wine, chloroform, surgical instruments, lint, linen, &c - besides heavy goods, like blankets - which go direct from the warehouses.

These depots are under the charge of our base Agents. Who are in daily communication, as we are ourselves, with the chief centres of necessity -

<sup>temporary</sup> the country. Hospitals in the whole country & villages round Sedan & round Metz - & with the French & German "Aid Societies" - a telegraph & so what is most wanted - which is sent off at once.

The Chief Agents & Surgeons in our employment have also credits of money to spend on the spot.

But much of what is sent, waterproof sheeting, old linen, English lint, chloroform &c &c &c, can't be had on the spot. And the poor sufferers say, there is nothing like what the English send them.



French

Every, both Protestant &  
N. Catholic, are attached  
to our Field Hospitals.

Thank God that there is even  
a prospect of peace.

And pray that it may  
be soon. Pray for all

these sick & dying men  
- & for the starving widows

& children - the poor people  
driven from their homes

& entirely beggared. I saw  
a little of that in the

Crimea - But oh what  
was that to this?

Such an unutterable woe  
Shogor has never fallen  
on Europe, not only not

5482/85/3

3

52352

Schools, people giving of their  
receptacles as well as of  
their superfluity, school-

children & working girls  
giving either their play time  
or their whole time to

make lint & bandages, or  
clothes even in poor

parishes giving their  
offerings & collections,

sed. ridden infirm people  
working for us. &

Yet, the wants of the sufferers  
grow & grow, always

larger & larger than our  
supplies.

I cannot think that there  
are less than 200,000

wounded - besides sick.



We have sent from Paris  
some good French "Infirmiers"  
to the field near Sedan.

Nurses at this moment  
we are not asked for -  
because, wherever women  
can go (and be efficient)  
there are at present, both  
in France & Germany, quite  
plenty of women enough,  
in addition to their  
numerous Nursing Orders,  
both Protestant & R. Catholic  
[- I heard from Laxemburgh  
that they have sent 60  
Deaconesses to the front.]  
And, in the most exposed  
places, like the country  
round Sedan & Metz,

where all the Hospitals  
are extemporized places  
in the fields & villages,  
you can fancy that men,  
like the French "Infirmiers",  
who take their cooking  
utensils & a fourth of  
a tent in such man's  
knapsack, & shift both  
for themselves & their  
patients, are of use,  
where women are of none  
or only in the way.

I thank God who has made  
our "Society," in the midst  
of this dreadful hurricane  
of war, of some use, tho'  
it be but a drop or a  
crumb of comfort.



for the present I make  
my excuse & give my  
thanks. But I do not  
mean to give up the  
privilege of writing to  
& hearing from him.  
I must always look at  
the improved Workhouse  
Hospital work as his  
work.

If you are so good as to  
write <sup>to me</sup>, please write to  
old Address, 35 S. St.

I must not forget to  
apologize to you about  
not answering your Telegram

5482/85/4

52332

in Christian times, but  
hardly even in barbarous  
times.

The pillaging in the French  
Revolution seems to me a  
merciful death compared  
with this suffering.

Acres of wounded, especially  
French, even after they  
had been removed under  
some kind of shelter &  
received some kind of  
first dressing, appear  
& have been left with  
nothing under nor over  
them, no food, water or  
wine, cleanliness or attendance.  
From the proportion of Dead  
& Wounded, which is



unrepeatably larger than  
anything I ever heard of  
before, thousands must  
have died of sheer want  
after having been wounded.  
But perhaps this was in mercy.

Glued that you are well.  
I shall be so anxious to  
hear of your arrangements  
about Purser & Assistant  
Cook & Steward & the like.  
I am sure that you will  
excuse a very hurried  
note - for I am overdone  
with writing, writing, writing  
- thankful only if it does  
the least good in the end.

Now I thought you would  
like to hear how we are  
getting on.

Don't think of us. But  
pray for the sick & dying  
& the famine-stricken people.  
Oh pray for them!

Would you, if you see Mr.  
Whitt, tell him that he  
does not know what a  
pleasure & a comfort his  
most kind note was to  
me - that I have been  
meaning to write & thank  
him for it every day -  
but that the quantity of  
writing which has devolved  
upon me has been so large  
that I am obliged to ask you

5482/85/5

8-

52332

July  
on the 24 or 25 - I came  
to me some hours after  
I had returned the dicto  
of "names" & Mr. B. Carter.  
They were only sent me  
for a kind of general  
opinion. And, as I  
was in a sort of "drive"  
of business at the time,  
I begged him, while sending  
on the telegram to him,  
to explain (& answer it) to  
you.

God bless you. And He  
will bless you -

Love yours

Wright

Send you our regards.



Not to trouble you. but  
merely because you may  
like to see the sort of  
things we are asked for.

I have been interrupted  
continually while writing  
this hurried scrawl.

Excuse it.

Take care of yourself.

Y<sup>rs</sup>

Sept 7/70  
p. a. m.

5462/85/6



Miss Torrance  
Highgate Infirmary  
Upper Holloway  
London N





touching letters. Not to  
mention what England  
is doing for the starving  
Peasantry round Metz &  
round Sedan! -

One letter says that the  
French Peasantry look  
upon England as "like God".  
Indeed England has been very  
generous -

Will you particularly thank  
~~me~~ for me for  
so kindly choosing for me  
the most healing Apparatus  
which is come & promises  
to be very useful?

May believe me  
Yours sincerely  
Florence Nightingale

5482/86

67475

35 South Street,  
Park Lane,  
W.

Nov 16/70

My dear Sir

I send, with very many  
thanks, the £2.2. for  
which I am indebted -

I am afraid I shall have  
to trouble you again.

But, at this moment, I  
am up to my chin in the  
countless horrors of this  
most horrible of all  
Earth's wars.

I do not hesitate to say  
that the state of the  
Crimean Hospitals when  
all England was in horror  
~~at the time~~

at its worst was  
better than that of the  
Prussian Hospitals before  
Paris & before Metz  
when at its best.

& that the Death-rate (this  
of course the information  
is still most imperfect)  
in these <sup>German</sup> Hospitals is so high  
as to be almost unparalleled.  
I do not like to give you my  
figures - because they are  
still untrustworthy - It is  
higher than that of the French -  
However, you will be glad

to hear that we have  
most gracious & graceful  
letters from both Crown  
Prince & Crown Princess,  
"speaking in the names  
of all Germany" - so  
that Germany is at least  
not ungrateful for all  
England has done -

[Since Sept 1, we have sent  
£ 57,000 (odd) in goods  
£ 30,000 (odd) in Cash  
to Germany alone, for her  
Sick & Wounded -]

Nor is poor France, (who  
has received at least the  
same,) ungrateful, I assure  
you. We receive such



on my strength & time. England has  
shamed every nation & every power to  
help both French & Germans. I do believe  
that not one man, woman or child  
above Pauperism but has given what  
they could & more than they could,  
to those who can never give again.  
[Indeed, we have had no "halfpence"  
but many "kicks" from those  
whom England has served so largely.]

I include India in England.  
And I have been quite touched by  
repeated small sums I have  
received from poor negro Congregations  
in the West Indies from National  
Schools - from Ultramarine Chapel  
congregations for these purposes.]

Our "International" (Red Cross) Society  
alone raised £300,000, besides  
valuable contributions in material,  
for the Sick & Wounded - our  
"Mansion House Fund" poured in  
£125,000 worth of food into starving  
Paris - our "War Victims' Fund" operated  
about Sedan & Metz & several other <sup>fronts</sup>  
I am now trying to get back to my usual  
work. But my strength fails me severely.  
Yours ever sincerely, Florence Nightingale

Private

5482/87

53648

35 South Street, March 31/71  
Park Lane.  
W.

My dear Sir

I cannot help writing to you  
a line by this mail, though it  
must be a hasty one. I say  
how truly grieved I was to  
hear of your illness - a matter  
of the deepest regret - as your  
recovery which I trust is  
perfect must be a matter of  
deserved congratulation to us all.

With regard to the chief subject  
of your letter, viz. its scheme,  
our own view has always  
been from the very beginning  
that all Medical Officers (Civil)  
paid by the State for any purpose  
should be fit, & also available,  
for all purposes. We would  
include, so far as we know,  
not only Vaccinators but all  
Civil Surgeons throughout India.  
Yours Dr. Cunningham & Mr.  
de la



They should all pass, so far as we  
can judge, under the Sanitary  
Commissioner; they should report  
to him, & execute his instructions.  
Sir C. Adderley's Royal Commission  
here has recognised the propriety  
of making all Poor-law Medical  
Officers in England Sanitary In-  
spectors. This R.C. have  
included in their Report, &  
have placed the whole sanitary  
administration including Mr.  
Simons, the Privy Council Medical  
Officers - not under the Director  
General (which is what you fear  
for India) but under the  
President of the Poor-law Board.  
This is a great reform.

Of course circumstances differ so  
widely between England & India  
that, where we speak positively  
in England from our own  
experience, we can only collect

[I see that you say, in your letter to Dr. Sutherland,  
that to make him (the local Sanitary Commr.) "head  
of the Medical Civil Officers of the Province" would be  
to "abolish his Sanitary work altogether", for he cannot  
possibly do both. This is undoubtedly.]

from India the best experience  
we are able to command from  
the best Indians.  
But your scheme will have, so far  
as we can see at present, our  
best support. \*

I had meant, before this, to write  
fully my opinion in detail -  
(which is one only of admiration  
& encouragement to go on & do  
more). on your last Annual  
Report - on your devotedness to  
our great cause - & also about  
your opponents. "The more difficulty, the more  
glory."

But again I must put it off.

You know how heavily this outrageous  
War - the sick & wounded on both sides  
& then the dreadful starvation in Paris  
& France - (wretched Paris! who seems  
determined on suicide & on destroying her  
own child, the Republic.) have weighed



5482/88

64782

Dear Mrs. Schwabe

Do not put me to the pain of refusing to see you.

It is for me impossible.

There are no degrees in the impossible.

Ever yours affectly

F. Nightingale

April 13/71

Private

5482/89/1

67965

London June 1/71

Sir

I beg to thank you for your kind note with its accompanying pamphlets - & to wish you all success & God speed in your wise efforts to promote one of the greatest causes of the world in this day.

I have thought, ever since, & have been able to think of these things at all and wiser heads than mine - abroad, have thought - that Emigration it is which, by allowing the enterprise & energies of England's working men to find their proper outlet & exercise in colonizing new lands, saves England from these tremendous convulsions which now, by rending & destroying Paris, agonize all France & disturb all Europe.

If France would or could emigrate, she might be saved too.

Such is the opinion even among some wise men in France.

The cleverness & vigorous life which  
Frederick Young &



exist so pre-eminent in Frenchmen find  
no use in spreading population &  
"civilization" (the Frenchman's favourite  
dream) except in ideas of conquest.

The inborn longing to possess land, which  
must appear natural enough when one  
considers that all food must first be  
got out of the land -  
that, as population increase, all the Free  
Trade in the world will not feed them  
in abundance, prosperity & vigour of mind  
& body, if more land is not put under  
cultivation & habitation -

[in France there is no more land to be put  
under cultivation - in England, very little -  
nothing in proportion with our enormous  
increase of population - but England has  
colonial lands which may well be called  
immense, immeasurable. France has  
none but 'play' Colonies]

this inborn land-longing, this natural land-  
instinct, implanted in us for our very



preservation, drives the enterprising Englishman  
to the Colonies. The enterprising Frenchman  
can only have land in France - and he is  
laughed from baby hood that everything out of  
France is exile, (unless indeed it be conquered  
in war.) The very best & wisest motives  
in our common human nature are thus  
diverted & distorted in the Frenchman & the  
engineer of destruction - & the wildest, maddest  
theories - theories meaning nothing but a  
denial of the first elementary principle  
(known to every child above Pauperism here)  
- that capital is & can only be the result of work,  
honest toil & saving - theories that capital, the  
fruit of the frugal, industrious population (none  
more so than that of France) is to be divided  
among the idle - with arms in their hands.

We see the end of all this in the last week at  
Paris - most dreadful week of our life-time - of  
this world's life-time - This French Commune,  
the origin of some of whose ideas is perfectly  
sound, taken to itself literally 7 Devils worse  
than itself - (and it is curious & mark how  
all these come from countries where the same  
causes have been at work as in France - warping  
the vigorous principles of manly independence &  
toil & enterprise) & burns itself down with its own hands.



And thus our first & most natural instincts  
become the remote cause which drive  
Frenchmen to terrible excesses than which  
the history of Barbarism affords no worse -  
to this most barbarous of disasters - in that  
most 'civilized' of worlds - And all in the  
name of Liberty, Prosperity, Public Right &  
'Civilization'!

But who can tell what England might do, did  
she not pour her multitudes over the Atlantic  
& over the Pacific, & found fresh nations,  
as the Parisians dream of?

England really is, or might be, the civilizer of the Earth  
as the Frenchman pretends to be, did all here  
understand Emigration ~~here~~ as you do. And may  
this frightful example at Paris open their eyes!!

Excuse my long delay - Excuse still more this  
rambling answer written among interruptions.

I am so overwhelmed with pressing occupations &  
increasing illness that any general correspondence is  
almost impossible to me.

Pray believe me, Sir,  
Ever your faithful servant

Florence Nightingale

Were the French Govt. instead of shooting the workmen,  
to sentence them to rebuild the buildings they have  
burnt down, it would not only save life, but it would  
teach these working men the first principle - that it is dearer  
to burn down buildings <sup>destroy capital</sup> than to work for it. In

5482/89/2

67965



*"Rosen Rosenes Lyttelton"*

Frederick Young Esq  
10 Russell Road  
Kensington  
W.

2/6/71



F. Nightingale  
July 1871

5462/90

56966

London July 17/71

Florence Nightingale begs to  
thank Mr. Colin Rae Brown,  
very much for his kindness  
in sending her his work  
"Noble Dove" - just received  
(He. in great press of business & illness)

5482/91/1

- & for these 11 years past, ever since its beginning, - which beginning indeed could never have been made but for you - In saying this, I am but appreciating the more our invaluable Matron who would, I am sure, echo what I have said.

I will not now take up your time further, which is, I am sure, fully occupied, but will only ask you to believe me, dear Mr. Whitfield,

ever yours sincerely & gratefully

Florence Nightingale

(Direct: old Address)  
London

63013 3

August 12/71

Dear Mr. Whitfield

I have been a long time answering your last kind note, in which you apprised me that you were going to write to our Committee about your "altered position".

I should have answered it immediately by begging you not to desert us at least for the next two or three years, but see us safely started in new "Ly. Thomas" - but that I deemed it more respectful to you & to our Committee to ascertain first what you had written to them -

Finding that you have not yet done so, I can but

R. G. Whitfield Esq



reiterate my earnest hopes  
that you will stand by us  
& give us the benefit of  
your invaluable guardianship  
at least for the present -  
though I should be sorry to  
think that we were a trouble  
to you in your new position,  
when perhaps you want rest.

[I cannot but deplore exceedingly,  
(altho' it is not my business  
to do so,) what I am sure  
is detrimental to the success  
& good government of any  
Hospital - viz - its not being  
under a permanent Resident  
Medical Officer with  
undoubted charge & authority  
but only under temporary  
changing House Surgeons & Physicians,  
by whatever name called.

This arrangement, if it is made,  
I fear Dr Thomas, who ought  
to be a model in every thing,  
will find reason to regret.]

I do not suppose that anything  
much can be done, (I am now  
returning to our Probationers) in  
"Medical instruction" till October.  
- I mean that the new Hospital  
will not be function-ing - excuse  
a mongrel word - regularly till  
then -

I trust that we shall then be  
able to induce you still to  
consider us, tho' only women,  
among the number of your pupils.  
And in the meantime let me  
thank you again & again,  
dear Mr. Whitfield, for the  
~~former~~ care, assistance &  
instruction which you have  
given to our Training School

5482/91/2



63013

11C

R. G. Whitfield Esq  
Manor House  
St Thomas' Hospital  
Newington  
London S.E.



A  
LONDON



London Jan 3/92

Madam.

No "introduction" is needed to me if anything can be done to further the cause which is always nearest my heart, the Soldiers' good.

And, tho' I have been obliged to make it a rule not to give my "name" where I cannot give my work, yet where the proposed course seems such a good one I would gladly do all in my power.

There are however many considerations, doubtless not foreign to you, which need to be looked at:—

the primary cause of the evil is that troops coming home should be quartered at such a place as Portsmouth

and secondly that they should be paid their savings in a lump.

Practically the two things together operate by making the men look forward on arriving to a course of licence until they are

Miss Alice Hopkins

either ill or until their money is all spent.

It appears to have often been considered whether it would not be better to send the returning men to other Garrison's & to refund their savings by degrees.

But nothing has been done & the present proposal is to hold out a more healthy inducement to men than the Public houses.

It is feared that the men who arrive with the expectation of a debauch will not be restrained by any such consideration as that proposed to be held out to them.

There may be some, but the great majority would, it is stated, not avail themselves of it. Moreover, Portsmouth cannot be judged of by Aldershot, where the circumstances are quite different.

This, however, does not appear to me to detract from the duty of trying.

At all events, it would enable the better men to escape - & their example might influence others.



If one felt that there was a chance, one ought to try to start it.

I don't know that one could say more without more information.

It is stated that there is a good Sailors' Home at Portsmouth which is successfully worked.

In a Report on Day rooms 10 years ago we showed that there was then a Soldier's Institute at Portsmouth supported by voluntary contributions (at which the Officers gave lectures.) Every Barrack is stated now to have its Day & Recreation Room. And there are several Missionary agencies for soldiers & sailors doing much good.

Great change has taken place within the last 20 years.

This would seem to indicate that those desirous of starting a new Institute should be able to shew all the facts & prove that they are not perhaps undoing somebody else's good work.



Of course your correspondent is aware of  
what is being done already -

Would it not be advisable for her  
to send me rather an account of this  
for information in order that we  
might, if possible, co-operate with her?

Will you excuse this letter? I am so  
overdone with work & with illness which  
keeps me a constant prisoner to my bed  
that it is difficult for me to write one  
not absolutely necessary line -

I wish this work God speed with  
all my heart & soul - I am only anxious  
to know how best to help in it.

Pray believe me

Madam

Ever your faithful serv<sup>t</sup>.

Florence Nightingale

Any letter to the care of

Miss Torrance

Highgate Infirmary  
Upper Holloway

London N.

will always reach me.



I have carefully studied  
the most useful packet  
you were kind enough  
to send me.

Do you think that this Form  
(the <sup>M.S.</sup> one I re. inclose)  
would be better for having  
the Date of Death - altho' that  
would appear in the 'Results - Date' certainly.  
- & also some provision for  
registering the state of the  
dying in woman 30 days  
after Delivery?

I see however that you think  
this too inefficient.

I beg to enclose a printed

5482/93/1

85 South Street, Jan 27/92  
Park Lane,  
W.

Sir

Again I must say: I  
cannot thank you enough  
for your never-to-be forgotten  
kindness in supplying me  
with invaluable information  
upon this subject of home-  
dying in Statistics & in  
so generously offering to  
procure more which  
but for you would be  
unattainable.

I do most eagerly close.

Dr. Bracton Hicks

56370/1

with your kind offer  
out of your "consulting practice"  
to obtain "privately the  
"Amount of deaths during  
"the past year. Suppose  
"I could" (you kindly say)  
"before 3 months are over  
"obtain those of 20 -  
"probably equalling 100 each -  
"in town & country - this  
"would be an instalment."

I would indeed - I  
do not know whether I  
anyway

should bring out a "second  
Edition" of my little book  
on "Dying in Institutions"  
(which you are good enough  
to enquire) "before 3 months  
hence". But I know that  
it would be quite worth  
while for me to wait - even  
a longer time for so  
precious an "instalment".

I will therefore most  
thankfully snatch at your  
offer.



5482/93/2

2

35 South Street,  
Park Lane,  
W.

form of Registry which the  
Birmingham Dying in  
Charity have adopted  
at my instance & to  
ask you whether you  
would think well of this?

I am extremely grateful to you  
for your remarks on the  
first part of my little book.  
Doubtless you are right  
as to the general Pathology  
of Puerperal Fever. But  
this may be almost an

• 56370/2

5482/94

Jan<sup>y</sup> 1872

Accept, I pray you, my old & only apology  
- that of over work & increasing illness -  
for this long delayed & meagre answer  
to your kindness.

And pray believe me

Sir

Ever your faithful serv<sup>t</sup>

Florence Nightingale

6845



impertinent thing for me  
to agree with you - since  
I do not of course consider  
mine a competent opinion  
on the Medical aspects  
of Child-birth - I am  
the more obliged to you  
for giving me yours - the  
experience & ability  
brought to bear upon your  
practice being so very  
large.

If I could make your  
conclusions more popularly

known in any new Edition  
of my little book this  
in itself would be a thing  
worth doing.

I must again apologize, tho'  
I will not weary you with  
repeating this, for the  
unavoidable causes which  
have delayed my answer  
& beg you to believe me

ever your faithful  
& grateful servt.

Florence Nightingale

permitting application to you -

M<sup>re</sup> Schmidt-Zabierow has been good enough to send me the Compt Rendu of last year of your "Frauen. Gewerb. Verein", which & its great usefulness have I need not say interested me extremely - I wish it all the progress in prosperity it deserves. Which is saying a great deal!

And now, trusting, Madam, that you will favourably receive my very humble little book, nor think me too presumptuous,

permit me to call myself  
(tho' in great press of business & illness)  
ever your faithful servant

Florence Nightingale

5482/95

57006

35 South Street,  
Park Lane,  
London W.

March 9/72

Madam

I should scarcely have ventured to hope that you would have remembered one, to whom you were so kind as to send rather more than three years ago your valuable sketch on the domain of women -

But Madame Ida Schmidt-Zabierow encourages me to do so. And she also thinks that you will not disdain a copy of a little book of mine on "Lying-in Institutions", which I hasten to lay at your feet - by no means

Frau Auguste  
von Litzow-Bischhoff



thinking that the Midwifery  
part of it will interest you  
— but only hoping that, as  
your great subject is how  
to raise & educate & employ  
women, you may find some  
attraction in the ~~subject~~ object  
we have in England to make  
Midwifery a career for educated  
women.

In this the instruction given at  
Vienna & Berlin used to be  
far before that of England.  
Indeed there is not now at  
this moment any recognized  
course in London which a  
woman must go through before  
she can act as Midwife.

And I have hoped that you  
would perhaps kindly furnish  
me with a dimple sketch  
(in answer to Questions) to be obtained  
from the authorities of the  
Midwives' Clinique at Vienna  
of the Instruction & Examinations  
required there.

But I have not ventured to send  
these alarming Questions to you.  
If you are graciously disposed towards  
a view of our necessities, I prefer  
you to M<sup>me</sup> Ida Schmidt-Zabiebow  
to whom I have sent them,  
knowing that from her hand  
may be acceptable that which  
I could not presume would be  
tolerable from mine — tho' I am  
aware of your great kindness in

of Collects, & be chosen  
amongst & varied.

Have a Morning Service  
different at least for  
Mondays & Wednesdays  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
Fridays  
Saturdays

& an Evening Service (different)  
- prayers, Collects & Benediction  
different for each - & even  
a variety to choose amongst.

Hymns printed too small:  
"One Hundred Large Type Hymns"  
(Taylor: Edinburgh -)

a favourite selection for sick.  
Excuse the brevity of these remarks  
which I understand you ask for  
& pray believe me ever your faithful  
serv<sup>t</sup> Florence Nightingale

London

5482/96/1

Nov 8/72 <sup>52791</sup>

Sir

I beg to thank you for  
sending me a copy of your  
"Hospital Prayer Book".

I am afraid that,  
overladen as I am with  
illness & business, some  
time must elapse before  
I can do what you ask  
in the way of examining  
it thoroughly.

May I beg you, as  
you deem & require an  
answer, to accept a very  
brief one for the present?  
Dr. Vining.



In all the Hospitals with  
which I am connected,  
what is recommended in  
your Preface is done,  
more or less closely.

We have great satisfaction  
from the results of  
morning & evening prayer,  
conducted in their wards  
by 'Sisters' of the wards  
(Head Nurses).

In many Hospitals with  
which I am not connected,  
the same thing is done:  
each following its own  
method: very good, in  
many cases -

I do not quite understand  
for whom "Part II." is intended  
If for a 'Minister', he will  
certainly choose his own  
method.

If for a 'Day Reader', as  
certainly almost.

If for a Head Nurse, a  
great deal more variety  
is necessary (<sup>ought to be</sup> given  
in a published ~~work~~) - for daily  
prayer.

Omio "General Exhortation"  
p. 78.

Omio "Prayer for Bishop & Clergy"  
p. 86.

Omio "Prayer for Queen & Royal  
Family" except on Sundays -  
Give a much larger selection

5482/90/2



*Miss Waring*

E. L. Waring Esq M.A.  
49 Clifton Gardens  
Maida Vale

W.



London November 18/72

Dear Sir

I have been compelled to delay this further answer to your letters of October —, October —, Oct. 16, & Oct. 27.

And you will no doubt agree that it is unnecessary for me now to enter into any discussion on the various points mentioned in your letters.

It is right however that I should distinctly state with regard to any supposed alteration ~~for~~ the plans of instruction to be pursued in our Training-School that my only wish is & has ever been to see carried out the system begun by yourself — and it is because I am satisfied that (in addition to other serious difficulties

R. G. Whitfield Esq  
v. 2

which threaten the welfare of the School) for some time past the services formerly & at the beginning so ably rendered by you could no longer be counted on that I concurred in thinking that your retirement was expedient.

To arrive at this conclusion could not be otherwise than most disappointing to me.

I might add that the strong expressions used by you in objecting to the appointment of Miss Torrance - a step which after much deliberation & as the result of an intimate personal acquaintance & in accordance with Mrs. Wadrop's desire I had recommended



to the Committee appeared to offer ~~but~~ an additional obstacle. I regret much this difference of opinion on a subject of so much importance.

It is impossible to suppose that you are not aware of the feelings of gratitude always entertained by me for the kind, able & fatherly part taken by you in establishing our Training-School - which without your aid would not have been effected. And it is one of the deepest regrets of my life that this part was not continued.

I have ever acknowledged your powerful advocacy both before & since the establishment of this School of principles which I have sought to enforce.

Those principles are still the same; and I am still the same.

I will most gladly avail myself of your

liberal offer to present the School  
with the valuable objects mentioned  
in your letter of Oct. 27 which  
I will communicate to the Committee.  
(by some mistake this was not done  
at their recent Meeting.)

I thank you sincerely for your good wishes  
& beg to remain  
dear Sir  
ever your faithful serv<sup>t</sup>  
Florence Nightingale



Ex. T. R. R.

Niphungale. J. G. B.

Nov 20<sup>th</sup> St Thomas' Hospital

1872

5482/97/2

63013

R. G. Whitfield Esq  
St. Thomas' Hospital  
Westminster Bridge  
London S.E.







5482/98/1

What steps the Government  
can take to further the  
objects that they have  
in view?

If the efforts of the Government  
have been unsuccessful,  
do not let Miss Cameron  
believe that to "license  
& regulate sin" is their  
object.

Let Miss Cameron consider well,  
& consult with any she  
may think right, and  
then say

What steps the Government  
can take -

Whether they are ill served.

Miss Cameron

A-216.

July 14

My dear Miss Hill

First of all: let me tell you  
how very much interested I am  
by Miss Cameron's letter.

I should tell her clearly  
my view of the enormity of  
the C D Act.

But it appears as if this  
"Act for the Immunity of Sinners"  
might while it lasts be used  
for reclamation.

The Government may say  
what they like: but the Act  
makes no practical provision  
for any reclamation.

You might ask Miss Cameron  
what she thinks of such a  
scheme as that of St. Michel.  
it is this:

to let the Government for the  
present stick to its own  
"most filthy bargain".

but to separate the  
subjects into classes

Sick Class

Education & Work Class

with Religious Training Class. &  
with the various agencies for  
strengthening the wills & souls  
of the poor girls  
for the awful future contest

& then placing them out  
either at their own homes  
or to gain an honest living.

This is what I mean by using  
the Act for reclamation.

The Government assert that their  
object is: not to 'provide  
healthy prostitutes', but to  
shield these poor girls  
from the danger of seduction.

Will you and, when seduced,  
diseased, & cured, to send  
them back to their homes,  
& place them under the  
best influences.

Will you ask Miss Cameron



5482/98/2

If Miss Cameron could  
spare a day & night  
within the next 3 weeks  
- or from Saturday till Monday,  
I could give her a bed,  
- and it would perhaps be  
more agreeable to her to  
talk all this over with a  
woman, like me, who has  
had but too much  
experience of these matters.  
She must kindly give me  
several days' notice, if  
she comes:  
because I am so busy -

She would of course  
kindly allow me to  
bring her up & back  
without expence to her.

God speed the work  
which will not brook  
delay!

ever yours affect<sup>ed</sup>

F. Nightingale

14/7/73

A. 216.

What, in fact, can be done.

P.S.

[One thing proposed is to bring both sexes under the C. D. Act. Seeing that no individual, man or woman, is justified in spreading disease - and the man or woman who, being diseased, has connexion, ought to be punished

Ask Miss C. what effect she thinks that such a law would have. It is thought that it might prevent many a man by a wholesome fear

[I do not myself hope much from <sup>such</sup> ~~the~~] or from any Act.]



Wards for paying Patients:  
there are ~~75~~<sup>65</sup> beds, of which  
25 for paying Patients:

Good ventilation, but  
wholly neglected:

lifts  
baths  
sinks  
W.C.s

} on each floor

- Good Operating Theatre.

- wards from 2 to 9 beds  
each - one of 10 beds.

- Nurses' sleeping rooms fairly  
good: 2 in each room

- Head Nurse 2 rooms; apart  
from other nurses

A.215 5482/99/1

35 South St  
Park Lane W.  
March 14/74  
(night)

My dear Miss Cameron

I am going to write to you  
to offer <sup>you</sup> a Matronship; & at the  
same time it gives me the  
greatest pain to do so.

I fear that you will  
accept it.

It goes to my heart  
to think of your leaving  
Portsmouth: for then  
farewell to all the good  
you are doing:

And I feel almost sure  
that the Admiralty will  
raise your salary, if  
you stay: Perhaps by  
annexing a Home.

We are asked for a Matron  
to the Soho Square Female  
Hospital in London:

- Salary £80 rising to £100  
per annum: And we are  
asked for an immediate  
answer.

There is a Ladies' Committee:  
- also a Hosp<sup>l</sup> Committee,

A 215

composed of Gentlemen. ~~with~~

- Med<sup>l</sup> Staff.

- there is Matron (to be replaced  
by us)  
Secretary  
one Head Nurse  
a Staff of Nurses

At the present time the  
Government of the Hosp<sup>l</sup>  
is not satisfactory:

Med<sup>l</sup> Staff & Hosp<sup>l</sup> Committee  
at variance:

& also Med<sup>l</sup> Staff at  
variance with Matron.

The Hosp<sup>l</sup> is good &  
comfortable, especially the



A.215

Wardroper - on Tuesday  
morning

We would recommend you  
for this -

But I must earnestly tell  
you that we never  
think it wise for any  
lady (& I always  
impress this upon every  
lady) - to take a  
Matron-ship with  
a number of Nurses  
neither engaged by her  
nor trained by us -

5452/99/2

2

A.215

Matron 2 good sized rooms,  
rather shabbily furnished

- Out: Patient Dep<sup>t</sup> on ground  
floor -

- Kitchen, Scullery, Nurses'  
Dining Room in Basement:  
- also Wash house & laundry  
(very bad plan)

Only 50 beds now occupied:  
Some wards closed.

House Steward (or Secretary)  
does Housekeeping & Stores

Matron Supervisor Nurses &  
Nursing &c &c

(as of course she ought)  
But Medl. Staff are trying  
to take Nursing into their  
own hands.

<sup>Recent</sup>  
Matron can only stay till  
25<sup>th</sup>.

But temporary arrangements  
might be made, as  
of course they will  
get no Matron worth  
having to come at  
10 days' warning.

But they must have an  
answer by Tuesday evening.

Now, dear Miss Cameron,  
pray consider this  
as a decision so serious  
that I strive to give  
you so little time to  
think over it.

Write your decision to  
Mrs. Wardroper at  
St. Thomas' Hospital.  
if you cannot make up  
your mind on so  
important a point  
before Tuesday morning.  
then telegraph to Mrs.



I am urging the Admin-  
-tration to raise your  
Salary, but cannot  
say with what success.  
- W. H. H. -

A. 215.

5482/99/3

3

Without our making  
Conditions for her that  
She is the Female Head  
(in reality as well as in  
name) - responsible  
Solely to her Committee.  
- With the Nurses  
responsible solely to her  
- with full power on her  
part to engage as well  
as dismiss them: Subject  
only to appeal to the  
Committee - & reporting to them.  
At Soho Sq. we are not

asked to make such  
conditions as we deem  
necessary: always.

And there appear a great  
many warring elements  
in the Management.

Much tact & judgment & patience  
will be necessary.

At the same time, I cannot  
guarantee the Admiralty

raising your salary at  
Portsmouth: tho' I believe  
they will.

Enclose an account of the Wards  
of Solis Sq. Hospital, which please  
return to Mrs. Waddop.

A. 215.

I have laid the whole  
case before you.

God speed you in  
whatever you do for  
His sake.

Yours affect<sup>ed</sup> but anxiously

F. Nightingale

I am compelled to go to  
my poor mother (my  
father died) again at  
once. Please write to me:

Smbley Park

Romsey (Hampshire)



after a certain age: of course  
I wish her God speed in so  
noble an object

I pray believe me  
Sir

Ever your faithful Servant

Florence Nightingale

5482/100

69262

April 16/74

Sir

I feel very sorry that the  
constant presence of over work  
& illness makes it very  
difficult to reply to all those  
who have long standing  
claims upon me. I almost  
impossible to give general  
answers; especially as it  
were miscellaneous answers  
in absence of all knowledge.

The first question is: What  
is meant by the "Medical  
profession" - (for ladies)?

William Nightingale Esq

I have given my view on  
this subject, tho' not as  
strongly as I could, -  
after long consideration;  
especially in the Appendix  
to my "Notes on Lying-in  
Institutions" - Longman's.

My view is, generally, that  
ladies should devote themselves  
either to Nursing or to  
Midwifery: & that, if there is  
ultimately to be a Female  
"Medical Profession" in this  
or any other country, the  
best, or rather the only, way

to it is: thro' ladies really  
making themselves  
accomplished Midwives -  
i.e. Physician Accoucheuses.

[Perhaps you contemplate a  
M.D. degree.]

If your daughter is too young  
for a Nurse, I suppose  
a good general education  
& household management  
would be the best preliminary.  
For Midwifery, some Latin &  
French would be useful:  
but she should only enter  
on professional education