

ORIGINAL LETTER
WRITTEN BY
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE
TO SIR JOSHUA JEBB
JULY 23, 1861

30 Old Burlington Street.
W.

July 23rd
1861

My dear Sir Joshua
I thank you very
much for your letters
official & non official
I shall talk over the
whole subject with
Mr Clough when he
returns. & meanwhile
what I write to you
is only private & for
your own consideration.
I so entirely agree
with you that one
"certificated nurse"

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Sent out to a "large
hospital establishment"
with the hope to leave
the work. That I have
always impressed upon
Mr Whitfield & Mrs
Wardroper that what
they should seek to do
is to send out a whole
staff or part of one
to any provincial
hospital which makes
such an application.
[Several in fact have
done so]. This could

not of course be done
the first year.
2. It would be un-
-possible to recommend
a head-nurse under
two years' training-
but, as the experiment
goes on, I think
the Committee will be
able to learn from
Mr Whitfield & Mrs
Wardroper - who can
be recommended as
head-nurse - and
make their own terms
for her, with the
Provincial Hospital.

[Provincial Hospitals generally have but one head-nurse]. She would then be in a position to train in her turn, as you point out.

[With regard to their taking the position of Matron, their vacancies can occur but seldom].

With regard to the position of head nurse in Workhouse Infirmaries, if better terms could be offered, plenty of these places could be found. Wh. would offer the very best opportunities for training. ~~others~~ do not think, ~~what~~

that the "large London Hospitals" will take our nurses, for several of them are going to imitate the example of St. Thomas' &c. and have written to me for information - a result which I think is even more satisfactory than if they had taken "certificated nurses" from us.]

While I quite agree that our nurses will not be so useful

if placed "in a
subordinate position"
in other hospitals,
the question is,
whether any of our
first year's batch
were capable of being
"placed in a more
commanding position."

Anything which
can be done "to bring
into the field a higher
class of persons," is
most desirable - we
must consider about
this - You are aware

that several ladies
were among the
first year's proba-
bly - and I do not
think that any discomfort
(unnecessary) there is to be
removed which would deter
a "higher class" I hope very shortly
to submit to you (but
this is still private) a
proposal from King's
College Hospital, to utilize
the remaining part of
the N. Fund income
in training nurses
there - who shall also
have a midwifery
education.

Believe me
Dear Sir, I am
ever sincerely & gratefully
Yours,
Florence Nightingale

Ms. In spite of so high
an authority as Mr
Marjoribanks, I cannot
but think that 7 per cent
charge on outlay would
have been quite high enough,
especially as the Hospital

itself has taken the
lion's share of the
trained nurses. With
regard to the charge
for the maintenance,
where you justly say
that "economy is not
the only question",
Prof. Jones, the Superin-
tendent of King's Coll:
Hospital, & I both
found that our mode
of dieting the women,
which included meat twice
a day,
puddings every day,
a choice of vegetables,
fruit & other varieties, was

both more healthy,
& much better liked
by the women. (altho'
involving much more
trouble to us), than
the St. Thomas mode
of everlasting joint,
potatoes, & no pudding
although St. Thomas
charges 10s. a week
without tea sugar
& washing -
Miss Jones & I both
did our mode for
8s. a week, including
tea sugar & washing.

I have far from
answered your letter
I hope to enter into
its subject much more
fully. - This is only
by way of conversation
I quite think that
the result of the
first years trial
has been satisfactory.

I have no doubt
you know that, if ~~you~~
we could get a "higher
class" of women, we
should have no difficulty

30 Old Burlington Street.

W.

July 23rd [1861]

My dear Sir Joshua

I thank you very much for your letters official & non official, I shall talk over the whole subject with Mr. Clough when he returns, & meanwhile what I write to you is only private & for your own consideration. I so entirely agree with you, that one "certificated nurse" sent out to a "large hospital establishment" will do little to leaven the lump, that I have always impressed upon Mr. Whitfield & Mrs. Wardroper that what they should seek to do is to send out a whole staff or part of one < to any provincial hospital < which makes such an application [Several in fact have done so] < This could not of course be done the first year.

2. It would be impossible to recommend a head-nurse under two years' training < but, as the experiment goes on, I think the Committee will be able to learn from Mr. Whitfield & Mrs. Wardroper < who can be recommended as head-nurse < and make their own terms for her, with the Provincial Hospital < [Provincial Hospitals generally have but one head-nurse] < She would then be in a position to train in her turn, as you point out. [With regard to their taking the position of Matron, these vacancies can occur but seldom]. With regard to the position of head-nurse in Workhouse Infirmaries, if better terms could be offered, plenty of these places could be found wh. would offer the very best opportunities for training others. [I do not think, which that the "large London Hospitals" will take our nurses, for several of them are going to imitate the example of St. Thomas's, and have written to me for information < a result which I think is even more satisfactory than if they had taken "certificated nurses" from us.] While I quite agree that our nurses will not be so useful if placed "in a subordinate position" in other hospitals, the question is, whether any of our first year's batch were capable of being "placed in a more commanding position."

Anything which can be done, "to bring into the field a higher class of persons," is most desirable < we must consider about this < You are aware that several ladies were among the first year's probationers, and I do not think that any discomfort (unnecessary) there is to be removed which would deter a "higher class." I hope very shortly to submit to you (but this is still private) a proposal from King's College Hospital, to utilise the remaining part of the N. Fund income in training nurses there < who shall also have a midwifery education.

Believe me dear Sir Joshua ever sincerely & gratefully

Yours,

Florence Nightingale

in securing such
situations & salaries
for them, as they
would be ^{went} for them
a suitable "provision".
F.N.