

NL/2902

7 Aug. 1866

understand that it is my fault. I think
some reference to the Soc: should have
been printed on the slips, as heading or
ending; will not the want of it give
you the trouble of writing on each one?
I was going to take some to send home
for the local papers, but we thought it
would be well to hear what you thought
should be added in writing. James is
not much better yet. The pain is neuralgic,
& appears to be regularly intermittent, being
much worse on alternate days. I am
studying rheumatism just now, reading
upon it at the Museum, (when I am
tired of physiology) and watching a
good many different forms of it in a

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medical ward which I go round several times daily. Your question as to what exactly I do will require a long answer, but I will do my best to give you a true & clear notion of my present routine. I think as I go on, I shall constantly feel my way into more work in the hospital, so that what I give as my round of duties now will probably not continue exactly true for many days even. I get to the hospital by 8 a.m. and as I am now familiar with the different cases in the 2 surgical wards in which I am located, I begin at once to prepare for the dressings by spreading the different ointments, preparing lint, lotion poultices

bandages &c. While I am doing this at a side table, the sister is going round & examining all the wounds &c. The simpler cases she leaves entirely to me very often, but the more difficult ones, such as cancer, she dresses herself while I look on. The time all this takes varies constantly with the number & character of the cases, but the house surgeon is expected to go round the ward about 11 o'clock, and I generally have time to go upstairs & visit the patients in 2 medical wards before he comes. If I can manage to be in the medical wards with the house doctor & then return to the surgical cases in time for the surgeon's visit I like

to do so. I feel at liberty to alter my routine
as much as I like; for instance, this
morning I did not do any dressings
in the surgical wards but went at once
to the cancer wards & saw the patients
dressed there, for the first time. After the
doctor & surgeon have been I give the
medicines & then go to the Museum. The
Physicians & visiting surgeons may come
any time between 1 & 3 so that I like to
be back by 1^{1/2}th, in order to go round
with them. When their visits are over I
may leave as soon as I like. They only
come 4 days in the week so that on the
other two days I can leave earlier if I like.

I made rather a point of being in the

hospital for the patients' dinner when I first went, but now that I know the routine & have begun going to the museum I prefer staying there as long as I can. The doctors are uncommonly civil to me, from the house surgeon upwards. There was a small operation in the ward to-day, which I saw, & the surgeon was very kind in explaining the case to me, & making me see what he was going to do. There was only one pupil with him, but he made him stand out of my way & took special care of my situation etc. Mr. Worthington, the house surgeon, is also very courteous in giving me information. He had been regretting

This morning that I could not attend to
the out-patient's department, as I should
see so much more there than I can now
in the wards. This afternoon, Mr. Nurse,
the surgeon who had done the small operation,
asked me if I should like to go to the
out-patient department, & when I said
that I should, he promised to take me there
in a week or two, when he returns from
the country. I mean to get as skilful as I
can in the mean time that I may not
annoy him much with awkwardness.
There is a great deal more to tell you -
verily I cannot go on much longer. I wish
one could write more quickly. On Sunday
morning, while I was dressing, came
a note from Mrs Octavia Smith,

asking me to go there to breakfast that
morning as Mr Smith wanted very much
to have some talk with me. It appears
that when my father mentioned my
wishes to him a month ago, they had
arranged to ask Miss Nightingale if I
could be admitted into St Thomas. As
I did not know anything of this scheme
before I went to Middlesex Hospital, of
course, I could not fall into it now, even
if there were a vacancy at St Thomas which
there is not. Miss Bowham Carter met me
at the Smiths, & she & Mrs Smith agree
in praising the training given at St
Thomas. In the end we agreed that I
should be glad to spend a few months

There after I leave Middlesex, and that
perhaps 3 months at each would be sufficient
If you do not already know all the
details of the St Thomas system, I can
send you a paper about it. They receive
15 probationers at once, & there is a long
list of candidates for the next vacancy.
Mr. Smith & Miss Carter will take me there
tomorrow that I may be introduced to the
matron & see the hospital. I called upon
Mrs Gurney in the evening (Sunday) thinking
I should not see her again till the middle of
Oct. but yesterday she wrote to me, sending
me a note from Miss Blackwell, & asking
me to call on Friday evening to discuss its
contents & those of another to Mrs Gurney herself
I will ~~send~~ ^{send} Miss Blackwell's note to me when
Mrs G. returns it & I can tell you then what
the two are about. I met Miss Annie Smith
deigh

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to-day at Langham Place & she kindly
 asked me to spend next Saturday with
 her at Hampstead. As the sister is going
 for a day's holy day, & will leave me in
 charge that day, I cannot go till the
 middle or end of the afternoon, but I
 shall enjoy that very much. Miss Smith
 looked most beautiful to-day, it is a
 great enjoyment to watch her, apart from
 any higher pleasure. I hope you won't
 scold for any apparent hastiness in this
 composition or writing, for it was a
 case of writing quickly or of leaving a
 great deal unsaid. My father was here
 last night, & seemed in good spirits,
 & interested in all my details. With love
 Yours ever E. Garret (J. O.)

I find I have not told you what I
do after I finally leave the hospital.
I generally return here about $4\frac{1}{2}$, talk
to Louie + James for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour, play with
the children + change my working dress
for something more dainty. Then do
algebra or mathematics till 7 o'clock. Then
have tea + afterwards write letters, or
this evening, or do Latin. I regret to say
however, that I have only had no letters
to do one evening at present. I must
get some Latin done, but when is rather
a difficulty. Writing is a great treat
& rest, besides being sometimes a duty.