

I do not want to say I am without mistakes in some instances, in managing the hundreds of hard and trying cases that have been here. Mr. Claxton blamed me in one instance, Mr. Alexander in another, Mr. Taylor in more, but I myself in still more; wisdom more than human would be needed to be perfect in this work, but blame without reason, from those who have no right to give it, I have always been unwilling to receive.

Yours respectfully,

JESSIE S. GOWAN.

Female Home, Jan. 21st, 1876.

FEMALE HOME.

SIR,—I beg to lay before your many readers a few facts, *in extenso*, in reference to the Female Home, so wantonly attacked in the columns of the *Star*.

My reasons for doing so are two-fold: first, to endeavor to show that the charges to be dealt with in this letter are false, and susceptible of full proof of being so; secondly, I consider it due to the Female Home Society, of which I am a member, and also one of its attending physicians of three years' standing, to state clearly my knowledge of the cases referred to.

To take them up *seriatim*. First, the case of the American girl; she was a patient of mine, and was daily visited as such until I discharged her, when she was in a proper state of health to leave the Home. Her convalescence was rapid, and her general health excellent. Mr. E. Shelton informs me that she made no complaint of her medical treatment, but on the contrary spoke very favorably about it. Previous to her confinement she expressed a wish to go out as a wet-nurse, and she did so voluntarily. All nurses going out from the Home to do so are always allowed to act as they deem best. A meeting was duly held at the Home to investigate this case, and the information adduced was deemed ample by the President, and showed clearly to those present that she had not been maltreated—her after illness being due solely to neglect on her own part, and we must bear in mind the fact that an interval of *eighteen days* had elapsed between the date of her confinement and the illness referred to in the *Star*.

Secondly, the case of Grace Jeffrey, who was sent to the Home from the St. George's Home—she never was confined in the Female Home or elsewhere here, as far as I know. She was a wilful mischievous lunatic; in the Female Home she had to be watched, and was the contrary of "docile." She was received into the Female Home in this condition, and caused great trouble in a variety of ways, such as stealing up to the patients and pinching them, and also by pulling out their hair in handfuls. On one occasion I had to speak to her; she had thrown a piece of cut firewood at one of the girls (a patient), striking her on the hand, inflicting a severe bruise. On another occasion she placed a lighted candle under her bed; she took matches, &c., to bed and tried to secrete them in the mattress, &c. She was a source of terrible anxiety and of positive danger. From the St. George's Home she was sent to the Montreal General Hospital, and from there back