

Starr to the "Medical Record" is presented as an evidence of the low standard of nursing existing in some of the private institutions:

NURSING IN PRIVATE INSANE ASYLUMS

To the Editor of the Medical Record:

SIR:— The first steps towards the correction of any abuse or evil are publicity of the facts and the awakening of public interest; after this the pressure of public opinion is sufficient to bring about a reform.

I desire to call the attention of the medical public, through your columns, to an abuse which should surely be remedied. I refer to the lack of proper nursing and care of patients in private lunatic asylums in the vicinity. First as to the facts:

Case I.— A lady of wealth and refinement, who became insane in Germany, was brought home by her family, and attended by skilled nurses, and, for a time, was kept in her home. She was then sent to Asylum A, where she remained for three years. During this time her nurses and companions were women obtained from the Young Women's Christian Association of this city at a cost of twenty dollars per month—decent persons, but wholly untrained in the care of lunatics, and incapable of giving the mental direction and help which a good trained nurse can give. Subsequently on her removal to her home and on being put in charge of two skilful nurses, a marked improvement occurred up to the time of her death, which took place from an intercurrent disease. She was charged \$100 a week at the asylum though the food was that of a ten-dollar boarding house.

Case II.— A young lady, who became acutely maniacal, was sent to Asylum B for care. Her nurses were dismissed