

Sept. 29th
1860

Middlesex Hospital
No. 4. Saturday

My dear Emily

AL/2906

Your two letters reached me together last night, the first was directed 68 St. A. It instead of 58 & not having the householder's name on the postman had some difficulty in finding me. Some think you are a bad hand at directing correctly. However the two letters were quite society for me. I sat over the fire and enjoyed them very much. My room is more pleasant by night than during the day. The oppressive amount of crockery in it does not strike one so forcibly by far light, it is very funny staying here and on the whole very pleasant. I enjoy the responsibility & the novelty of

having to live in such a primitive way. The room has all cottage peculiarities and having to get out my own meals harmonizes with its aspect. One of the nurses is good enough to cook for me, and they would all willingly do more if I did not wish to try my hand at the sister's work just as it is. I have done the linen for the wash, taken the medicines to the shop, & brought up some from the housekeeper this morning, in addition to the proper nursing work. I feel a great inclination to rule very diligently, as all new brooms do. Thanks for the hint about the superfluous "that's". The doctors who are most civil to me now are not those who wish have anything

to do with admitting me as a student, with the one valuable exception of Mr. Nunn, in whom I place a good deal of confidence. He has asked me to dine with him as soon as his wife comes back to London that we may discuss my plans. I should be extremely glad if he would take me as a private pupil & to live with them. He is evidently very fond of teaching & goes out of his way to do so pretty often. I always feel dreadfully slow & awkward with him for his manner is quiet & he seems surprised at the ignorance I am continually displaying. Yet I think when he got accustomed to this we should get on well enough together as the ignorance of anatomical

& surgical terms which must worry him
now would soon decrease with study.
I feel a dreadful temptation to discurving
in all my medical reading, there are
such heaps of things always turning
up upon which I want immediate
information & the hour or two I
can spend at the Museum is almost
consumed in this way very often. Do
you think it would be well to resist
this temptation and endure the want of
knowledge till I come to it in some
orderly method of reading. (Friday)

This sheet was begun nearly a week ago
& it is now almost too stale to send.

The 68 mistake reminded me that you

X
I should like to know a good deal more
of the Brewys; superior people are so very
valuable, I think one would be justified
in giving up time for their acquaintance.
The great difficulty seems to me to consist
in the fact that they would not have the
same indulgence that I should have, that
an inferior person has no right to claim
the advantage of superior society. Still as far
as it is possible I shall try to get it. I should
be very glad to ~~have~~ have Ellen Brewy as
a fellow student, or even only in chemistry
if she could not now begin the whole course.
There is so much to explain to you about
my plans I almost despair of doing so in
writing. I have come to the conclusion that
it will not do to go on long in the false

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position I now occupy at the hospital. I
am nominally a nurse, but without
any duties, no regular scene of action even.
I may go into any ward & learn anything
& do anything. As each ward has its sister
& sufficient staff of nurses it is difficult
to get much actual nursing work & I turn
to the medical study instead. Dr. Willis treats
me as a pupil & the house surgeons do the
same & I am in the surgery every morning
getting the teaching & practice gratis for which
the pupils pay a fee. It appears to me that
I should not go on receiving instruction as a
pupil under the guise of a nurse, and that
it will be right to ask the College authorities
to allow me to pay the usual fees in these
special departments & to have the run of

AL/2906 cont
The hospital as at present for medical
observation. I have accordingly written to
Mr. De Morgan, the treasurer of the college,
asking to see him when next he comes to
the hospital, and I shall know much
more of the chance of being admitted as
a student when he gives his opinion upon
this proposal. If the medical board are
determined never to admit me I should
have to recast all my plans, for even if
Mr. Nunn should be willing to take me
as a pupil, I should not feel sure under
these circumstances whether it would be
best to accept the offer or to try again in
connection with some other hospital. I
should like to get admitted as a student

without having to ask for help from Dr. Farr or any one else, but if I cannot it would probably be worth while applying to the supporters of the movement rather than join myself to a doctor with the certainty of not seeing his hospital practice. On the other hand Mr. Munro is a very pleasant man & a good teacher & I think he would be glad to help me. Then again there is the Oxford Professor ^(Brodie) who is still willing to take a chemical pupil. I feel inclined to think that a great deal of preparatory reading could be advantageously done while attending his lectures, and if I cannot get the regular routine education this would perhaps be

a very good irregular beginning. Chemistry is one of the 1st year's studies in all medical colleges so that it would be the right time to go to Prof. Brodie. Miss Brewin was regretting last night that no girls would prepare & offer themselves for the Oxford & Cambridge middle class examinations. She says she is nearly sure they would be admitted, a Cambridge examiner told her that in his opinion they would be there immediately. I think women need a great deal more stirring up yet. The mischief does radically lie in their ignorance of what would really be a supreme blessing to them. I wish you would write something for the Journal upon the openings that do exist

For those who would try to use them a
great deal might be said about my
hospital work, it has been so delightful,
& the difficulties so much lighter than they
were described beforehand, and even for those
who did not wish to enter upon the com-
plete study of medicine the training would
be valuable both in itself and as an entrance
to other things. Most of the work in which
Miss Parke wishes to see women engaged
could be entered through some such an
avenue as this, & the fact of getting away
from home & making a start would be
of great value in many cases. I hope the
meeting will succeed, I should like to be at it
I wish write when Mr. De Morgan has given me
his opinion. Yours affectionately E. Garrett