

Some will try to exclude noisy fellows. Others will themselves adjourn from the coffee room to the public house. Know the difficulty of many ladies who would gladly do their sort of work, i.e. husbands & fathers naturally do not like their being away from the late dinner.

Pray pardon this note, which is Private. As I am bound to send you my mite, tho' unable to do what I wish. Hopfully & faithfully yours Miss Adela Brooke Florence Nightingale

London Oct 2/90
Dear Madam
I am an overworked old woman, & a permanent invalid. I must stick to the two objects of my life. And it is absolutely impossible for me to undertake another line of Correspondence or to read (much more to answer or to return enclosures from) stranger's letters.

But, fortunately for me, I caught sight of your list of books. I am always looking out for books for the boys, especially the boy-Patients in the large Hospital, where is our training school for Nurses. To keep the

boys & young men from the "penny dreadfuls" which they take for two coffee Reading Rooms which I've founded on what was my father's estate, which are out of my hands. I know the difficulty of many ladies who would gladly do their sort of work, i.e. husbands & fathers naturally do not like their being away from the late dinner.

individually. Give in charge to each of them to bring in a "mate" Give singing classes & other classes to those who like it, including Bible-classes - teach them games. Otherwise the men will be too apt to consider only themselves & making themselves "comfortable" - to keep out the "black sheep" instead of bringing them in. The books they will order will become novels of not the highest order class

acc 5064

TRANSCRIPT

Autograph letter on black-edged paper, 8" x 5"
Miss Florence NIGHTINGALE to Miss Adela BROOKE at Combe; October 1890

"Private" London Oct 2 / 90 [in another hand: "£2. 2/-"]
Dear Madam

I am an overworked old woman, & a permanent invalid. I must stick to the two objects of my life. And it is absolutely impossible to me to undertake another line of correspond^e or to read, (much more to answer or to return enclosures from) stranger's letters.

But, fortunately for me, I caught sight of your list of books. I am always looking out for books for the men; & especially the boy-Patients in the large Hospital where is our training school for Nurses, to keep the boys and young men from the "penny dreadfuls" which they get in & gloat over.

& also for two Coffee & Reading Rooms which we founded on what was my father's estate: & which are out of my hands for I have no time.

Pardon me if I try to guide [*sic*] your noble plan. What is my experience & that of others: Put your "management" into the hands of a "Committee of Working Men", by all means. But let the lady's influence always be "personal". Let her go, if possible, to the rooms 2 or 3 times a week - talk to the men, especially the young men individually. Give in charge to each of them to bring in a 'mate'. Give singing-classes & other classes to those who like it, including Bible-classes - teach them games.

Otherwise the men will be too apt to consider only themselves & making themselves 'Comfortable' - to keep out the 'black sheep' instead of bringing them in.

The books they will order will become novels of not the highest [*order*] class. Some will try to exclude 'noisy' fellows. Others will themselves adjourn from the Coffee Room to the Public House.

I know the difficulty of many ladies who would gladly do their sort of work, & fathers naturally do not like their being away from the late dinner.

Pray pardon this note, which is Private.

As I have made use of your List, I am bound to send you my mite, tho' unable to do what I should wish.

Hopefully & faithfully yours

Florence Nightingale

Miss Adela Brooke"