

Nursing circles, and those who have never personally suffered there, feel the disgrace which it reflects on other institutions.

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THE campaign began by an interview with Mrs. Hunter, who with Miss Yatman brought the whole subject before the public by the evidence given before the Lords' Committee. Then came one or two letters, and an interview with Miss Walker, one of the Matron's assistants, the Matron herself being probably away from the Hospital. Miss Walker stated that she was the official who sent Nurse Pairman, with an open wound in her nose, on duty in the Erysipelas Ward, and denied that the Night Sister ever spoke to her upon the subject. It is weeks ago since Mr. Editor told the sad story in these columns, and Miss Walker has taken no steps to contradict the statements therein made. However, in a day or two the following crushing reply from the late Night Sister in question appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and it is most significant that it has also never been answered.

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"I HAVE just read with much astonishment the account of an interview with Miss Walker, in your issue of the 13th inst. Miss Walker is stated to have said, *re* Miss Pairman's death, that 'it is absolutely untrue that the Sister made any protest to me at all.' I have stated on my oath before the Lords' Committee that I went to Miss Walker specially, and protested against her sending Miss Pairman on duty in the Erysipelas Ward with an open wound from her recent operation. And what is more, I have witnesses who can prove that I told them at the time what action I had taken. Why this long silence? My evidence was given before the Lords on the 21st of July. Why was it not denied on oath at the same time, or on the next meeting of the Select Committee? It is a long time till the 13th of September. Miss Walker did not tell your representative the strange fact that the Doctors wished to have a post-mortem to show the cause of poor Miss Pairman's death, that the friends consented to its being made, but that the Matron suddenly interposed, and would not allow it to be performed. It is not true, as Miss Walker asserts, that Dr. Fenwick stated to the Lords' Committee that erysipelas had nothing whatever to do with her death. Your readers will find in the Blue Book that he never said any such thing. The public will ask why the Matron prevented the Doctors having a post-mortem, and the medical profession will wonder that their brethren at the London Hospital are subject to her control in medical matters. P.S.—Your readers will find

a good account of Probationer Pairman's case in the *Nursing Record*."

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THERE have been some other good letters since, but the following, which appeared last Saturday, is certainly the best:—

" 'SAINTS OR SWEATERS?'

"To the Editor of the '*Pall Mall Gazette*.'

"Sir,—As one of the general public who subscribes to Hospitals, and who has friends and relatives among Nurses, I venture to thank you for taking up the subject of the Nursing Department at the London Hospital. Nursing at the present day is recognised as an essential aid in the treatment of disease and injury. Within the last few years the calling has been adopted by thousands of educated women, who have vastly improved its theory and its practice—immeasurably raised its professional and public usefulness and therefore its prestige. It is imperative from the public point of view that Nurses should be systematically trained, as the members of all other skilled callings are expected to be educated, and, moreover, that when a Nurse is asked for, the public should be able to procure the services of a woman who has actually undergone such a scientific training. In the Blue Book of the evidence recently given before the Select Committee of the House of Lords now published, it will be found that the authorities of the London Hospital admit the following facts.

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"FIRSTLY, that this great English charity is in the habit of deliberately deceiving the public; that it advertises to supply 'thoroughly Trained Nurses,' and that when the sick of the richer classes, trusting in its good faith, apply for such help, it often sends them women whom the Hospital itself does not consider trained, because they have not earned its certificate of efficiency—women, in fact, who are only Probationers or learners in its Wards. It sends out these pupils, whom it has bound itself to teach for two full years, to gain what experience they can, at the expense of the helpless sick in private houses. But by so doing the regular education and training of the Probationers is broken, and by so much is she rendered the less efficient when her term of pupilage is over. It is a fact that women thus sent out as Private Nurses have missed their lectures, and therefore been unable to pass their examination, and so have been handicapped in their future careers. The duties of those pupils who should be working in the Wards, but are sent out, naturally falls upon those who are left, and this adds to the enormous overwork of which they complain. What is this for? You will find it stated in the Blue Book that after the payment of

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