

always glad of advice and criticism, to do what they could to perfect that branch of the Hospital. At the present time they were in the middle of a scheme for an alteration in that department. Nothing definite had yet been adopted with the exception of appointing two men to do certain work which had hitherto been done by the Nurses. Mrs. Hunter said that the chairman's correction was an important one, and if anything had been wanted to confirm her convictions respecting the Nursing department, it had been furnished by the report. Undue responsibility had been laid on the Nurses, who did not receive the pay, but had to do the work of the Staff Nurses, and the anxiety so occasioned tended to produce the collapse which finally occurred. The question relative to the sending of Nurses to private patients had not been met by the report. She pointed out that one-fourth of the Nurses, after having been selected by the Matron, were afterwards rejected. She suggested that a sub-committee connected with the Nursing department should be appointed to consider the questions relating to the Nurses of that institution.

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I REJOICE to see that plucky Mrs. Hunter "has come up to time," despite the intimidation of the bellowing herd, who were permitted to howl down the Governors at the December Court, and to hear that she intends, as a Governor of the London Hospital, to do her duty towards that Institution with that singleness of purpose and true courage for which she, and her much respected husband, are so justly famous. She has already exposed the glaring mismanagement in the Nursing Department, but as a Governor her duty does not end here. I hope and believe that she will not rest until the much-needed reforms are carried out.

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MUCH as I sympathise with the overworked Probationers, there is a little band of women—about sixteen in number—who act as Ward-maids to the different divisions, many of them having to do the rougher cleaning to wards containing from fifty to sixty-eight beds. These women, many of them poor widows in the district with children to keep, are veritable *white slaves*. They work from 6.30 till eight p.m. for ten shillings and sixpence per week, and are provided with one meagre meal only in the middle of the day. It would be quite impossible for these worthy women to retain either health or strength under their present conditions of labour were it not for the help in the way of clothes, &c., they receive, *sub rosa*, from the Nurses. Just double the number of Ward-maids is necessary in the

London Hospital, so that each may perform a good day's work without absolute drudgery, and that the Probationers may be able to attend to the patients thoroughly, and not "clean them up with the rest of the Ward furniture."

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A DEPUTATION of ladies waited on Lord Cranbrook, on the 27th ult., to speak in support of the Midwives' Registration Bill. The deputation consisted of the Countess of Aberdeen, Lady Lucy Hicks-Beach (Rural Nursing Association), the Hon. Mrs. Stuart-Wortley (East London Nursing Society), Mrs. H. Smith (president of the Midwives' Institute), Dr. Annie M'Call, Mrs. Charles M'Laren (Women's Liberal Federation), Miss Bramston (guardian of the poor, St. George's), Miss Freeman (Matron of the Endell Street Lying-in Hospital), Mrs. Malleson, and others. Lady Aberdeen said that they desired to press upon the Government the necessity for passing a Bill for the registration of Midwives, in the interests of the working women of the country, amongst whom seven out of ten confinements took place without the presence of a medical man, with the result that a large number of deaths and chronic illnesses were caused. Lady Lucy Hicks-Beach, the Hon. Mrs. Stuart-Wortley, Mrs. Smith, Dr. Annie M'Call, and Miss Wilson spoke in the same sense. Lord Cranbrook, however, gave an unfavourable reply, alleging that the Bill was an impossible one.

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I CONGRATULATE Dr. Robert Rentoul!

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I HAVE been reading with much interest Dr. Rentoul's last book, "The Dignity of Woman's Health and the Nemesis of its Neglect." It is evidently written with the intense earnestness which the author's crusade against the legislation for Midwives has proved him to possess. I do not thoroughly agree with all his views about women, but there is so much strong common-sense, graphic description and useful plain speaking upon every subject treated, that it would be well for all mothers to read the book. Certainly if some of the advice given was generally adopted, there would be much less suffering amongst young girls and women than is now undoubtedly the case.

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I HAVE much pleasure in announcing that Miss F. E. Snudden, M.R.B.N.A., has been declared to be the winner of the last (the *fifteenth*) Post-card Examination, which had for its subject, "Describe the immediate treatment (in emergency) in a case of bleeding from a varicose vein." This was an unusually heavy competition, a very large number of replies having been received.

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