

and the necessary reforms instituted. Those who had brought discredit upon it would have vanished into oblivion, and it would have emerged from the ordeal strengthened and purified, while the honourable conduct of the Committee would, in the public mind, have cleared them from any complicity in the proceedings of their employées. Some there must be who deeply regret that this course was not adopted, because for sixteen months there has been a steadily-growing sense of public uneasiness. Englishmen dislike to see a woman, who has the moral courage to plead the cause of others in a large assembly, howled down by an organised band of rowdies. They naturally argue that force is no argument, and is usually only employed where all arguments are wanting. And so the London Hospital scandals have been for months a constant topic in professional circles. The Medical School is consequently suffering; and although there are no published statistics concerning the Nursing School, we imagine, from the information we receive from different parts of the country, that the number of applications for admission as paying Probationers has probably been much less, in the last twelve months, than it had been for years previously. And this damage to a great Institution will not only continue, but will surely increase, and may, at any moment, become critical. The Committee of the London Hospital stand on the verge of a volcano. The evils complained of, sixteen months ago, are still permitted by them to exist, and any chance accident may re-light the smouldering fires and reveal to public knowledge even graver facts than those exposed before the Select Committee of the House of Lords.

There is sufficient, therefore, in this consideration to prove the bad policy of any imitation of the London Hospital Committee, by any other similar body, similarly circumstanced. But, in the case of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, it would be impossible to follow such a course, because, whereas at the London Hospital the Medical Staff supported the Committee, and the Press, with rare exceptions, were persuaded to keep silence on the subject, at Glasgow both these important conditions were reversed. There the medical men, most honourably, at once took up the first anonymous letter in the *Daily Mail*, and the Resident Staff sent to the Committee a statement, signed by them all, supporting the truth of the statements made. The Nurses then were encouraged to stand their ground and did so, and then the Press took up the matter cordially.

Loeflund's Hordeum Compounds.—C. Pepsin (in dyspepsia), c. Iron in chlorosis, anaemia, jaundice, pleasant and digestible for ladies and children), c. Quinine (an excellent tonic in neuralgia, nervous headache, and debility), C. Lime (—hypophosphite, in rickets, scrofulosis, very digestible). 3s. 6d. R. Baelz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

There lives in Glasgow, however, a gentleman named Mr. William McEwen. He has written to the *Daily Mail* a letter nearly a column in length, which would have overwhelmed the satirist who declared that Scotchmen have no sense of humour. Its object is plainly to persuade the public that everything is all for the best—in that best of all possible Hospitals, the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow. To do this, he gives "a few reminiscences," and informs a listening world that he was appointed a director of the Infirmary in 1862, and, "after a year or two's experience, was not at all satisfied with the general condition of the house." Considering that, according to Mr. McEwen, there was no regular dinner ever provided for the Nurses, but that "they got a herring one day, a bit of cheese another, an egg upon the third, and picked up on other days anything that was to be had"—perhaps the Nurses were even less "satisfied" than Mr. William McEwen. Then he tells us that the Nurses "slept in the wards, or in a room above the kitchen, where a lot of them were huddled together, and one or two bad ones contaminated the others." They were paid from fifteen to seventeen shillings a month, "had all the floors to scrub, and their own clothes to wash." Mr. McEwen gives Glasgow to understand that all this was altered for the better under his management. Mr. William McEwen believes he is responsible for the rule that the bodies of patients dying in the evening are not removed until the following morning. He made this rule because the Nurses "objected to carry the body and take it through long dark passages to the mortuary, where perhaps five or six other bodies might be waiting interment." These are Mr. McEwen's own words, and apparently it has never occurred to him that there was any other possible alternative between the Nurses carrying the corpses away, and the dead being allowed to remain all night to contaminate the air of the Ward, and depress the living. Mr. McEwen informs our contemporary that he knows nothing about "little irregularities," which "may have taken place," as he has never directly or indirectly had anything to do with the Infirmary for six years; but that his "reminiscences" may "help to dispel wrong impressions created by letters written in ignorance." And yet some would have us believe that the Scotch are not humorous!

But merry Mr. McEwen becomes grave when he talks about the Medical Staff. He opines that the "assistants have rather got out of hand, and meddle with matters which they have nothing

Loeflund's Alpine Milk Rusks (ground) ensure the most perfect development of bone and muscle in growing children from 6 months to 2 years of age. Prevents rickets, scurvy, and ensures healthy progress at the most critical period. Invaluable in teething. 1s. 6d. R. Baelz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)