

rowdies howled down all attempts at criticism; and it was actually believed that Englishmen and Englishwomen would consider such proceedings conclusive proof of the justice, good faith, and irrefutable arguments of the Committee of the London Hospital. At Glasgow, the Press took up the matter, and an "inquiry" was therefore compelled, at once. For seven weeks, the farce was played in private—a perfect travesty of an investigation into the affairs of a public Institution, which should, we contend, have been conducted with the utmost possible publicity. The Press, however, being upon the alert, the Whitechapel pantomime was not repeated, but the Report was only sent to the papers. And therein, at least, the Glasgow managers have done wisely. Together with the Report of the managers' inquiry, our contemporary the *North British Daily Mail*, published a statement from the resident medical officers of the Royal Infirmary. These gentlemen in terse and simple language prove by definite facts, the gross mismanagement of the Institution, and make certain clear and very valuable suggestions for the improvement of the Nursing Department. We commend their honourable conduct to the notice of their competitors at the London Hospital, who have been immortalised in a Blue Book, by their Matron, for their addiction to bread and milk.

The Report of the managers may be easily summarised. As we predicted, they do not say one word in condemnation of themselves, and they do not print the evidence they have received, so that the public has no means of judging for itself upon the matter. For the rest, many of the charges are grudgingly admitted, and others which are contradicted or dismissed as exaggerations are proved by the context to be partially or wholly true. And more significant than anything else is the fact that some of the most serious allegations are not dealt with at all.

Descending to details, we notice with amusement that the old London Hospital excuse is revived; that the "managers were unaware" until September 3 that there was any dissatisfaction with the dietary. As we have said before, so we repeat now. What is the use of a Committee which is "unaware" of what is transpiring in its Institution, and of what is common knowledge to everybody else?

In the next place, we may briefly consider some of the admissions made in the Report. It is allowed that the Night Nurses get nothing but tea and bread while working during the night,

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and the generous inquirers added that they "think that such other refreshment as can be easily heated in the Ward kitchens might be allowed, if the Nurses prefer it." We wonder what these gentlemen would say if they were compelled to work amongst the sick and the dying for twelve hours without food, or if they were debarred from any nourishment except tea and bread from eight o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock at night. We imagine that they would "prefer" some more substantial repast even if it could not be easily heated in their shops or offices. The complainants stated that they had no potatoes for two months. The managers indignantly reply that they believe the storekeeper rather than eighty Nurses, and it was only for *one* month that the Staff were deprived of this not unusual article of diet! The other specific complaints as to fat beef, rancid bacon, tainted fish, rotten eggs, nasty tea, and bad cooking, the Committee airily dismisses as "if not wholly without foundation, at least much exaggerated." But as it is admitted that the tea costs one shilling and twopence a pound, and that butcher's meat is contracted for at fivepence three-farthings a pound, either the Committee believe their tradesmen are philanthropists—to give good articles at such unprofitable prices—or the tradesmen believe the Committee are fools to expect it.

We have some hesitation in expressing our opinion upon the mental calibre of gentlemen who would make such a statement as that which we have just quoted, and then immediately discount their verdict by such recommendations as the following. "In contracting for the butcher's meat, all unnecessary fat should be eliminated"; "a refrigerator should be provided for the store-room in which the fish are kept"; "the cook should have a skilled assistant in addition to the present kitchen maids." Without quoting further, it is plain that, if the beef had not been fat, the fish tainted, and the cooking bad, these recommendations would have been quite superfluous.

On the question of overwork, the Committee simply plunge headlong into a morass of muddled contradictions which would be farcical were the matter not so pitiable. They assert that the time-tables do not involve overwork, and then admit that the time-tables are not adhered to. They state that when Night Nurses remain in the Ward after ten a.m., "it is voluntary on their part, and unnecessary," and yet in the

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