

experienced pupils in that capacity; by sweating its Nurses, and by depriving the sick poor of their attendance, the Committee of the London Hospital made a net profit last year of nearly £1,400, and yet are not ashamed. Nothing will therefore make them effect reforms except publicity, and that we shall make it our business to ensure. Vested interests are enormously strong in this country, and the cloak of Charity covers more sins in England than in any other land under the sun. It was, therefore, we frankly confess, many months before we believed the many facts which were told to us concerning the London Hospital, and many months more before we expressed our opinions upon those facts in these columns. For this reason, we do not blame our contemporaries for their apparent apathy in this matter, although we have convinced many of our journalistic friends of the truth of the London Hospital scandals. They—as we also did—hesitate to draw public attention to the matter, for fear of injuring the finances of the Hospital, forgetting—as we also did—that the efficiency of such an Institution, and not its Bank Balance, is the first consideration, and that the sick poor and the Nurses in a Hospital have rights which should not be openly ignored, in the vain hope of “hushing things up.” We see our duty, at least, quite plainly, and we mean to do it. We cannot be accused of personal feelings in the matter—the feeble, and apparently the only argument, which the Committee of the London Hospital hang upon, as drowning men clutch at straws; for we have never had any communication of any kind with Mrs. Hunter and her friends, who have brought this matter on the *tapis*, and we only know some three of the Committee by name, and, we believe, not one by sight. But we are firmly convinced that the condition of the Nursing department of the Institution is a disgrace to the noble profession of which we are the representative organ, and, therefore, we do not intend to relax our efforts until the most sweeping reforms have been effected in it. Already we learn, with much gratification, that our condemnation of the abuses at the London Hospital has led to the abolition of similar faults in other Institutions. And, week after week, month after month, and, if necessary, year after year, this Journal will draw attention to the glaring evils at the London Hospital, until they have been reformed, for the sake of Nurses chiefly, but also for the benefit of the sick poor. With reference to the Resolution to lengthen the Nurses' and Probationers'

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holidays to three weeks in the year, it is noteworthy that this was lost by a much smaller majority—little more, indeed, than two to one. All the arguments, all the right, were on the side of Mr. Costelloe and his supporters; the might of votes—and nothing else, except glaring inaccuracies—were on the side of the Committee. Although there are few large Hospitals in the United Kingdom which have not recently increased the holidays of their employées, thirty-two Governors of the London Hospital supported the Committee in their system of sweating and overworking their Nurses; £1,400 wrung out of their labour, and eighty-three hours of toil every week, for fifty weeks in each year, exacted from them. Small wonder, then, that one speaker scathingly expressed his surprise that men who would thus help to grind the faces of women workers should be ashamed to let it be publicly known that they supported such conduct.

WOMEN'S TRADE UNION ASSOCIATION.

THERE was an interesting meeting held at Exeter Hall, on November 26, over which Lady Sandhurst, whose interest in all women's work is so well-known, presided. It was the second annual meeting of the Women's Trade Union Association, whose object is to teach women how by combining they may obtain their fair and just demands. People may differ as to whether some of the means employed are sanctioned by the end to be gained; but none can deny that any movement which will put an end to the vile system of overwork and underpay which has been the common lot of English female labour, and which has been the cause of such an enormous amount of suffering and sickness, must be viewed with sympathy by all working women, including Nurses. According to Lady Sandhurst, though the movement was still in its infancy, the report showed a record of good and steady work.

“The Nursing Record” POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

No. 31.

A Book or Books of the value of Five Shillings, or Two Pairs “Gregg's” Kid Gloves, will be awarded for the best answer to the following subject:—

“Describe briefly the Nursing Treatment required in a Case of Influenza.”

Address “The Nursing Record Post-Card Competition,” 11, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C. All answers must reach us not later than the morning of Saturday, December 12th, 1891.

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