

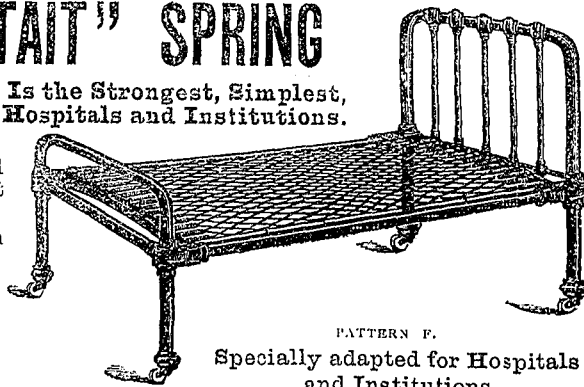
ledge in two years. It seemed strange to him, as a layman, that the largest Hospital in the kingdom should maintain an inferior standard of education for its Nurses. But one way in which this education was imparted seemed to him to be still more strange, for he understood that the Hospital solemnly contracted with its pupils to teach them Nursing in its Wards for the full term of two years, and yet that the Committee permitted the Matron to send out these ladies, before that term was completed to act as Nurses in private houses, so that their systematic education was interrupted. It appeared to him to be most unfair to those who entered the Hospital to learn a responsible calling to be thus employed. But it seemed equally unfair to the public who applied for "thoroughly trained Nurses" that they should receive ladies who, even according to the low standard adopted by the London Hospital, were not "thoroughly trained." He felt confident that this system would not be considered creditable to the Institution by any unbiassed person. Finally, it was perfectly clear that the system must be extremely unfair to the sick poor in the Hospital for whom the Hospital existed, and for whom it was maintained. Indeed, he could not imagine how the Committee could justify their proceedings on

this view of the question. They were impaled on the horns of a dilemma. Their only excuse for sending out as Private Nurses, Probationers whom they had not ventured to certificate, was that these ladies were "trained" and able to nurse the sick thoroughly well. They surely were not prepared to argue that these ladies could be in two places at the same moment, doing their duties inside the Hospital and outside it. Then they must admit that in sending out excellent workers to nurse people outside for payment, they were depriving the poor inside the Hospital of some amount of care which they ought to receive. They could not assert that these Probationers were spare hands, because, in the first place, their Matron had stated before the Lords' Committee that she would be glad, if the funds allowed of it, to have more Nurses on the establishment; and, in the next place, the Committee surely would not so waste the Hospital funds as to pay workers for whom there was no work. If, therefore, there were not too many Nurses in the Hospital, the Committee must be causing the remaining Nurses to be overworked, or the sick poor to be neglected, by sending out workers from the Wards. He spoke as a layman, from the public point of view, and felt confident that if this proceeding was known it would do

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