

the Wards and sent to private cases, and that this is unfair alike to the Hospital patients and to the public." This is very ingenious, even if it be not altogether ingenuous. No mention is made of the unfairness of the system to the Nurses, who enter the service of the Hospital upon the express understanding that they shall be trained for the complete term of two years in its Wards, and who most certainly should not have their education interrupted in order that they may be sent out to earn money for the Institution. This is both morally and legally a breach of the agreement which the Hospital makes with its pupils, and as it is a matter to which allusion has frequently been made, we think that it would have been more straightforward if the question, as it affects the Nurses, had been noticed in the Memorandum.

The authors then argue that, inasmuch as the number of patients varies daily, so the number of Nurses who are required is not a fixed quantity. They infer, therefore—although they do not venture to state it in so many words—that it is only when Nurses are not wanted in the Wards that they are sent out as Private Nurses. In other words, they actually desire the Governors to believe that, by a marvellous concatenation of circumstances, every now and then the number of patients in the Wards becomes so much smaller than the average that there are Probationers standing about with their hands in their pockets and with nothing to do, when just at that moment the richer classes get their turn of disease, send to the Hospital for Private Nurses, and lo! and behold! the Probationers are there all ready for them. The young person who is in charge of this department is possessed of the gift of prophecy. She knows for exactly how long these Private Nurses will be required, and that during this time there will not arise the slightest need for their services in the Wards. It always happens that exactly those Pupils who are best fitted for the various outside cases for which they are required are precisely those who at that particular moment have nothing to do, and so it is found possible to utilise them. The absolute absurdity of the argument will be so apparent to all who have the smallest acquaintance with the actual working of a Hospital that further comment is needless.

The authors continue: "No complaint has reached us from Doctors, Sisters, Nurses, or patients. It is not too much to say that this is the best possible evidence of the all-round efficiency of the nursing." We reprint these words,

Sterilized Milk is now most strongly recommended for feeding infants. All Loefflund's Milk products are sterilized on the most approved principle, and their unsweetened Sterilized Alpine Cream Milk is by far the best and most perfect condensed milk produced. Sold by Grocers and Chemists, or apply to Loefflund, 14, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

because we desire, for a special reason, to place them on record. The day is coming when it will be publicly stated, what is now only privately discussed in professional circles, that the Medical Staff of the London Hospital are entirely ignorant of what goes on in the Wards, in which they individually spend, perhaps, two hours in every week; that Sisters and Nurses are living under such a grinding despotism that they dare not complain of anything. They have their Certificates to gain, in order to earn their livelihood thereafter; they are well aware of their position with regard to the Committee; they see the manner in which independent Governors of the Institution are treated at packed meetings of the Committee and its friends and tradesmen, and the lesson has not been lost upon them. The Committee is quite safe. It will not receive any complaint from the Sisters and Nurses. But these women become free some day, and then, with their Certificates safe in their pockets, they tell through the length and breadth of the land what is being done in the London Hospital. This has been going on for years—the fire has been quietly smouldering; there has been one flicker already; there may be another outbreak any day, and we have very good reason to think that it will then be a regular conflagration. As to the patients, we have good reason to believe that if there were another general Hospital at the East End, the Wards of the London Hospital would be empty. As it is, hundreds hurry past its gates every week to go to Guy's and St. Bartholomew's, for it is notorious that it is rapidly becoming a by-word amongst the poor of the locality. The Committee may—ostrich-like—hide their heads, and fail to comprehend the growing indignation against their Hospital.

"The success of the Training School is unquestionable, the Nurses of the London standing second to none in the world." We deeply sympathise with the Nurses of the London Hospital, and wish for their sakes this statement were true. But it is utterly at variance with the facts. It is notorious that the Training School is now a failure financially, and does not obtain as much from fees as many small Provincial Hospitals do. In 1888, only three years ago, it produced £2,260 11s. 6d.; in 1891, only £812 18s. 8d. It is notorious that Committees of other Hospitals do not take women direct from the London Hospital to fill their superior posts. In the last five years, we believe we are within the mark in saying, not five Matrons of important Hospitals in this country have been

De Jong's Cocoa.—Dr. Hehner (President of the Society of Public Analysts) says: "Of absolute purity and highest excellence; surpasses in delicacy of aroma and richness of taste the best kinds hitherto offered to the public."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)