

sions, and would satisfy itself with a few pious opinions and some suggested improvements.

In brief, we may say that this is precisely what has occurred. Very voluminous evidence—in the form of about twenty-seven thousand questions and answers—was taken in 1890 and 1891. This has been—very fairly, on the whole—boiled down into ninety-one foolscap pages of summarised statements, and from these a few definite conclusions are drawn which fill about seven pages, while a detailed proposal for a Central Board of Management for Hospitals occupies the last three pages of the Report. There are three general observations which we may make before passing on to particulars. As we have on previous occasions pointed out—even predicting the necessary consequences—the Select Committee laboured under the great disadvantage of investigating a strictly technical matter without possessing any technical knowledge. We have previously shown how they were thereby hampered and hindered in their investigation; and their Report now proves that they have failed to grasp the extreme significance and importance of some of the evidence which they received. In the next place, we consider that the greatest credit is due to Lord SANDHURST and his Committee for the patience, perseverance, and care which they have evinced in the conduct of their inquiry, and that the ultimate effect of their work will be greatly to the benefit of our Hospitals by introducing many much-needed improvements.

Finally, we believe that the advantages to Nurses and Nursing which will result will be almost immeasurable. For it must be remembered that this is the first occasion on which any public inquiry has been made into the Nursing departments of our Hospitals; and although the veil has hardly been raised, sufficient has been brought to light to make it certain that great reforms must be made in the future, just as the fear of exposure has, in the last two years, undoubtedly caused immense improvements to be made in a number of London and Provincial Hospitals. And, in this connection, we take this, our earliest opportunity, of expressing our opinion that the Committee has in its Report, not done justice to the Nurses who gave evidence concerning the London Hospital. We cannot but point out that the action taken by Miss YATMAN in this matter really led to the more complete investigation of the Nursing question at other Institutions; and we feel confident, from information in our possession, that for the incalculable advantages which

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have thus been gained at numberless Institutions this lady deserves, and in future will receive, the greatest praise. Because, as we shall show when we come to consider the London Hospital part of the judgment of the Committee, the matter is now open for discussion, and there is no doubt that both in Parliament and the Press will receive the consideration which many have hesitated to give to a subject which appeared to be *sub judice*.

The general Hospitals are first considered, the evidence relating to each being carefully summarised. Then the provision of Samaritan Funds at various Hospitals; the manner in which in-patients and out-patients are admitted; the various charges which have been brought against Hospital out-patient departments, and the facts relating to each charge; the very unequal present distribution of Hospitals in the Metropolis; the question of paying patients in Hospitals; the want of co-operation amongst Hospitals; the manner in which Hospital accounts are kept and published; and the various proposals for a Central Board of Management, are considered in detail. Then, in like manner, the arguments for and against special Hospitals are discussed, and the particulars relating to the Brompton Chest, the London Fever, and the Lock Hospitals, and the Royal Hospital for Incurables at Putney, the Queen's Jubilee Hospital, the London Homœopathic Hospital, and the Gordon Hospital for Fistula, are given. Next, the facts concerning Dispensaries—Provident, Free, Private, and Poor Law; the Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and the Poor Law Infirmaries, are similarly summarised and discussed. Then, considerable space is given to Nursing matters, as we will, next week, proceed to show. The details relating to the Medical Schools and to the Hospital Sunday and Saturday Funds complete the first part of the Report. The conclusions and suggestions deal with the same subjects practically in the same order. Such, then, is the bare outline of a great and most useful work, for which, as we have said, we believe that the Lords' Committee deserves the gratitude of all Nurses. But we shall be obliged to point out in our further consideration of this Report two significant facts: that the Committee have overlooked the importance of some of the evidence tendered to it; and that there is almost as much, in some instances, to be learnt from what they do not say, as from the actual judgment which they express. This is especially the case, we shall

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