

who are well qualified to form a judgment upon such a matter. In the very large number of letters and items of news concerning the London Hospital, which, during the whole existence of this journal, we have received or collected, there has never been one word said against the House Governor. Our information concerning the present Matron, the late Secretary, three members of the House Committee, and past and present members of the medical staff is peculiarly extensive, and extensively peculiar. But concerning Mr. NIXON we have heard nothing but grateful words for kindly deeds which he has done. Although he is an absolute stranger to the Editor of THE NURSING RECORD, we cannot refrain from expressing the feelings which, we are confident, a very considerable number of the readers of this journal hold towards him, in wishing him a speedy and complete recovery of health and strength, much future happiness, and that for many years to come he may enjoy the rest and leisure to which his long and arduous labours have so thoroughly entitled him.

It was generally believed, at the time of the Lords' inquiry, that Mr. NIXON'S evidence saved the London Hospital from the condemnation which would have been evoked if the Nursing Department had been the only section of the management inquired into, because it is undeniable that he proved that the general working of the Institution was excellently ordered and controlled. No doubt can be felt now, as none was expressed two years ago, that the real cause of the disorganisation of the Nursing Department is to be found in the lapse of the Bye-Laws which placed the Matron in a subordinate position

to the House Governor. This was made quite clear at the inquiry by the Lords' Committee. "Is the Matron independent of you or is she responsible to you?" Lord SANDHURST asked Mr. NIXON, and the answer was, "By the law she is responsible to me, but in practice it has come to be that she is entirely independent." And again, in reply to another question, Mr. NIXON answered, "technically, by the law, she is responsible to me in the absence of the House Committee, but that has lapsed."

Now, there cannot be the slightest doubt of the meaning of the Bye-Laws referred to. The first Standing Order for the Matron says: "In the absence of the House Committee she shall be under the control of the House Governor." The third Bye-Law relating to the House Governor reads as follows: "He shall (subject to the House Committee) have the entire control of the Hospital and of all the resident officers and servants, except the Chaplain and the Secretary when in residence." The primary question, therefore which must be faced in the appointment of a new House Governor is whether the Bye-Laws are to be still allowed "to lapse." As a matter of strict legality, of course, the Committee of the London Hospital are in an absolutely indefensible position. They are bound by their Royal Charter and their Act of Parliament, which define the powers of the Corporation, to enforce the Bye-Laws. They have no jot or tittle of power to over-ride or supersede them, of their own initiative. We maintain that they have acted *ultra vires* in permitting the paid officials of the Institution to disregard and, in fact, to ignore the regulations of which the Committee is entrusted

Early Weaning.—For infants deprived of their natural food Loefflund's Kindermilch is the most perfect diet; being, in physiological action and composition, a perfect substitute. Sold by Chemists, or apply—Loefflund, 14, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)