

worn-out goods. He would probably say that it was incredible that any body of Englishmen could permit such a state of things to exist—that those entrusted to carry on his great work of benevolence should have so debased its lofty purposes.”

In response to this, we have received a letter from the Treasurer of Guy's Hospital, which appears in another column, and to which we invite the most careful attention of our readers and our contemporaries. Probably, everyone who reads it will agree with us as to the extraordinary nature of the reply. We accuse a great Charity, on the very best of evidence, of making merchandise of its Nurses. We call the Treasurer of Guy's Hospital to the bar of public opinion, and what is his answer and justification:—That we are “entirely wrong on a very important point. Guy's Hospital Nursing Institution was founded by special subscriptions and donations for this purpose, and no funds of Guy's Hospital have ever been devoted to it.” We have never said one word as to the manner in which the Institution was founded, or as to the source from which the funds for its establishment were derived. And we confess ourselves, therefore, absolutely unable to discover where the “important point” arises upon which we are “entirely wrong.” But in order that there may be no shadow of doubt as to our statements, in future, being entirely right, we should like to know whether the Treasurer desires it to be understood that there is no connection of any kind between the Institution and the Hospital. If that is what he means, we would humbly venture to point out that the former is called the Guy's Hospital Nursing Institution, and that it is, apparently, under the control of the Managers of that Hospital—facts which are curious, not to say misleading, if the two Institutions are totally distinct and separate.

But, in order to prove beyond dispute the entire accuracy of our statements, the Treasurer is kind enough to furnish us and the public with further examples of how

Guy's Hospital “sweats” its Nurses, of which we were quite unaware, and for which, therefore, we beg to thank him. Not only has Guy's Hospital never given a penny towards its Nurses' Institution, but “on the contrary the Institution pays Guy's Hospital annually a liberal sum for the board and training of twelve Nurses destined for the Institution, and it also furnishes, without charge to the Hospital, special Nurses whenever needed.” We turn again, as our readers will turn, to the letter. Yes! it is stamped at its head, “Treasurer's House, Guy's Hospital, S.E.” The signature is quite clear. What does it mean? That the Treasurer actually boasts that out of the money provided by the labour of its Private Nurses, Guy's Hospital helps itself to a “liberal sum” for preparing twelve other women to be sweated in their turn, and, furthermore, appropriates the services of any of these Private Nurses, “whenever needed,” without paying for them; the cost of their keep, we presume, being also “liberally” defrayed from their own earnings. Mr. EDWARD H. LUSHINGTON does not intend us to misunderstand the exact nature of these proceedings, for he continues: “Thus Guy's Hospital benefits by the use of the Nurses in training, and is saved all expense in obtaining extra Nurses when needed. These pecuniary benefits amount to about three hundred pounds a year.” The calm callosity of this confession of the manner in which Guy's Hospital treats these women is extraordinary. And when these poor Nurses venture, in the quietest and most humble manner, to ask that a little more of their hard earnings should go to themselves, and a little less to maintaining Guy's Hospital; when one Nurse shows that she receives on the average £27 10s. per annum, while the Institution receives £77 10s. for her services, and asks that, after four years' service, the Nurses' salaries may be raised to £40—which would still leave a profit to the Hospital of nearly 100 per cent. wrung out of their work—this is the reply they receive:

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