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## Editorial.

## SITTING ON THE FENCE.

NDER certain circumstances, this is a proverbially safe course to pursue, but it is rarely or never a dignified attitude. It is suitable for those who are uncertain upon which side of the hedge they ought to walk, but it is not good policy for those whose path of duty should be perfectly plain and straightforward. For these reasons, therefore, we consider it neither dignified nor wise nor even honourable that the Committee of the London Hospital should, at the present moment, be so palpably perched on the fence. If they believed that the charges made against their management were untrue, they would assuredly have acted, as a body, as any honourable individual amongst them would have done had his conduct, in similar fashion, been called in question, and demanded the most

full and searching inquiry into the truth of the statements of their critics. Instead of taking this step they are passively resisting the efforts which are being made to throw light on the details of the Hospital organization. There is only one conclusion which can be drawn from such behaviour, and both the press and the public are noting with astonishment that the London Hospital Committee are evidently afraid of an investigation into the methods in vogue at their Institution. We learn, from members of the press, that some of the most influential amongst them have hitherto kept silence on this subject because they could not imagine that the serious charges advanced against the Hospital could possibly be true; but that the attitude of the Committee appears to them not only to confirm the truth of these charges, but also to emphasize the necessity of reforms. We, therefore, have good grounds for urging the Committee of the London Hospital to do something, and speedily, for their own sakes as well as for the reputation of the Institution; or they will assuredly find the matter taken out of their hands and an inquiry instituted by an outside authority, into the manner in which they have fulfilled their public trust



