

before the Select Committee of the House of Lords on Metropolitan Hospitals. It was currently reported, at the time, that their lordships declined to receive more evidence than appears in the Blue Book, and that a large mass of important facts could, and would, otherwise have been submitted to them. Whether this be true or not, it is beyond all doubt that the matter, by some extraordinary means, was kept out of the lay press, and that the public at large never heard the real facts which became enshrined in one of the most interesting Parliamentary Reports ever published. The London Hospital Committee went through the farce of appointing three of their number to sit in judgment upon themselves, and the three gravely reported that they were as near perfection as human beings could comfortably be. The Committee and its friends effusively endorsed the verdict, and then shouted down those who attempted to criticise their arrangements. Still rumours of mismanagement filled the air, while the Committee steadily outvoted every effort to secure reform. Then the Lord's Committee issued their Report, in which they dealt most mildly with the charges against this Institution, but made certain eminently sensible recommendations for improvement, and hinted, in no obscure terms, that the London Hospital Committee were under the control of their officials. These gentlemen, however, evidently prefer this anomalous position, and have so far sunk in the estimation of those around them, that an active defender recently attempted to palliate their shortcomings by pleading their very obvious "weakness." Their dependent position is still further evidenced by the fact that they have not even been permitted to carry out the recommendations of the Lords' Committee—wise and necessary as these evidently are.

About eight months' ago, some stir was made by the protest of a Probationer who had been dismissed from the Hospital, as she contended, in a very unjust and arbitrary manner, and who proved herself a redoubtable critic of the present system of management. Then, two months ago, came a "bolt from the blue" in the shape of the now well-known articles in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. We have no hesitation in saying that our contemporary has not only proved its journalistic energy and enterprise but has

done a great work for the Nursing profession and the public by its action in this matter. The Hospital doves have been fluttered from end to end of the country, by the revelations of the "Truth about the London Hospital," and from all sides we hear that houses have been set in order lest some journalistic "Pro." might be amongst them, taking notes. But the Hospital, whose mis-management has aroused the whole commotion, maintains its old attitude. Upon the "Special Commissioner" of our contemporary an avalanche of abuse has been poured—but not one single charge which she advanced, and not one single statement made by those correspondents of the *Pall Mall Gazette* who followed her in decrying the management, has been disproved. But our contemporary went a step further and challenged the authorities of the London Hospital to consent to a public inquiry in which every statement made by its "Commissioner" might be tested and proved or refuted. We understand that the *Pall Mall Gazette* even offered to pay the whole cost of such an inquiry. It might have been imagined by those unacquainted with the Committee of the London Hospital that this offer would have been immediately and gladly accepted, and that they would indeed have eagerly welcomed such an opportunity of proving to all the world, not only what a beneficent work they were engaged in, but also how magnificently they performed it. But they maintained a stolid silence after that first "emphatic denial" of anything and everything said against them.

On Wednesday last, the ordinary Quarterly Court of Governors was held, and, apparently, it was attended by a very small proportion of the so-called Governors of the Institution. The Committee, as the report of the meeting in another column shows, proposed that no further action should be taken by the Hospital in the matter, and, although one Governor had the hardihood to propose that the Committee should not shrink from meeting the charges brought against them, his resolution was not even seconded, and it has gone forth to all the world that the London Hospital dare not face any public inquiry into its affairs. How serious a step this is for the whole hospital world we shall show next week.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)