

usually about £35—in wages, also their uniform and washing, while they had always a home and good food without expense between their cases. He had heard complaints made as to how little time the Matron spent in the wards, but the amount of office and administrative work was very heavy. The fact was that the work must be organized with 280 Nurses in the place, and when any information was required about individual Nurses it was simply marvellous how much the Matron knew. Were the Nurses overworked? What did they say for themselves. A letter had been got up by them without any knowledge of the officers and out of 275 no fewer than 263 had signed it. Their reply was sufficient to dispose of this charge. This was evidently the chairman's strong card, and the letter was not only read out in full, but printed copies were freely distributed. The circular in question sets out in the preamble that it is a protest of the nursing staff "against the persecution to which our Institution, our Matron, and ourselves have been subjected during the last three years." It had been said, the chairman continued, that there was waste. No doubt there was waste, but not more than could be avoided. There was unavoidable waste in a large Institution. In conclusion, he asked, Were they to be upset because a probationer wrote unwise letters to a London newspaper? If they were to heed the criticisms of a probationer on Hospital Management, he might as well set up in opposition to Sir Andrew Clark as a consulting physician? (Laughter.)

"THESE DISGRACEFUL ATTACKS."

Mr. J. Hale, the chairman of the house committee, in seconding the adoption of the report, spoke of "these disgraceful attacks on the work of this grand Hospital," and thought it was high time the governors put their foot down. Despicable, mean, and other such epithets followed.

FOURTEEN HOURS WITHOUT A HOT MEAL.

Mrs. Hunter wished to make it clear that the recrudescence of this subject in the *Pall Mall Gazette* in no way owed its origin to those who were instrumental in bringing the evidence as to the nursing department of the London Hospital before the committee of the House of Lords. She also contradicted the renewed assertion that there was any malice or personal feeling actuating those who acted with her. It was not wise on the part of the committee, she considered, to meet criticism by denials or by imputing evil motives. Most of the defects which were now spoken to were in a great measure similar to those which were brought before the Committee of the House of Lords, and if the

House Committee had made an impartial inquiry into the facts this fresh discussion would have been avoided. The committee had done a good deal since that time, but it had not gone quite far enough. The same responsibility was not now thrown upon young Nurses, and the food was improved, but the Night Nurses had still to do fourteen hours' duty before they got a hot meal. They might have tea or cocoa, and cold meat or eggs, but they had to complete fourteen hours before getting a hot meal. That might easily have been remedied.

A CHARGE ADMITTED.

It was brought before the committee that a Nurse was required to go from an infectious ward to one where there was a tracheotomy patient. That was indignantly denied. Now in the *Hospital* of August 5th, which deals with these charges, it was placed among the charges that were true—that the Sister who is in charge—

Mr. Hale: A Sister, not a Nurse. (Hear, hear.)

Mrs. Hunter: Is a Sister not a Nurse? (Laughter.) What were they to think of the knowledge of a committee that indignantly denies such a statement, while it has to be admitted by one of its most zealous champions and also condemned by him? Should this not make them reflect that other statements made by the Nurses may be also true? The House of Lords' Committee had recommended that the Nurses should have two days off per month. In the London they had only one day, and before they got off, they had to do two hours' work. At a former Court Meeting, Mr. Buxton had told her that that was not so, as a change had been made; and it was certainly a surprise to her to find afterwards that no change had been made. Two lessons, she thought, should be drawn from this inquiry—(1.) That when criticism was made it should not be met in a hostile spirit, but inquired into; (2.) That the House Committee should delegate their duties to a sub-committee, to include ladies, who could find time to pay closer attention to the management.

The Rev. L. S. Wainwright spoke of the kind treatment accorded to the patients from a knowledge extending over twenty years.

BOUND TO MEET THE CHARGES.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick said the editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* had asked for an opportunity of proving the charges which had been brought against the Hospital, and he thought they were bound to meet that. They should call upon the editor either to prove what he had said or withdraw and apologise. That was the manly way to meet the case. Undoubtedly

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