

investigation would leave them just where they were before, and would in the interim upset the Hospital.

Now it seems to us that this attitude is altogether a mistaken one. The London Hospital is an Institution dependent upon public subscriptions, and as it extends daily the scope of its admirable work, it is compelled to make ever-increasing demands on the purses of the charitable. To obtain an adequate response to these demands it is essential that the management should inspire confidence. And confidence is not won by meeting all criticism with sweeping charges of improper motives. As far as we are concerned the imputation is ridiculous. We had no other motive than the good of an excellent Institution, about the management of which prejudicial rumours were freely circulated. To ascertain whether there was any, and if so what, foundation for these rumours, we employed a Special Commissioner to examine for herself and to report. Our Commissioner was given a perfectly free hand, and she had, and could have, no other motive than to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as her observations presented it to her. We have never denied the possibility of her having been mistaken or misled, or of having drawn incorrect inferences from the facts she accumulated, but that nought was set down in malice we have ample evidence. An impartial inquiry would have settled all doubts on this head.

The Committee, we repeat, seem to take a very mistaken view of their duties. They are trustees of public charity, and not a close corporation. Mr. Buxton, the treasurer, claims for the Committee that it had "in unbroken continuity" managed the Hospital for forty or fifty years. We are not sure that this is a good thing—new blood is useful—but in any case it does not exempt them from criticism, or entitle the members to treat criticism as a personal attack. Nor is it sufficient to meet criticism with flat contradiction, and with counter-statements that cannot be regarded as altogether unprejudiced. This applies to the memorials printed and circulated yesterday bearing the signatures of 263 members of the present nursing staff and 241 "old London Hospital workers." We do not question the sincerity and good faith of these signatories, but they must themselves see that when once such memorials are started, the difficulty of refusing to sign is obvious, and detracts from the value of the testimonial. In the nature of things this cannot be independent testimony, such as will satisfy the public, nor do they strengthen their case when they assert that "the attacks come mainly from outsiders and disappointed probationers, whose views are not improbably biased by their

own failures." They could not know this, and the statement is not correct. An impartial inquiry would have cleared up all the doubts and misgivings which exist. If the result had shown that the criticisms of our Commissioner and others were ill-founded or frivolous, we should have been sincerely glad to have recognised that they were mistaken; if, on the other hand, they were proved to be justified, then they would have been clear to remedy the abuses—for all those alleged are easily remediable—and to have established the London Hospital on a stronger basis than ever. As it is, we deplore the decision of the small body of Governors who were present yesterday, because it seems to us calculated rather to soothe the *amour propre* of individuals than to forward the best interests of a great and invaluable institution.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

"PEATMORE WHISKY."

(Messrs. HANSON, SONS & BARTIE, Botolph Lane, Eastcheap, London, E.C.)

"Peatmore" Whisky, which is the name of a special brand of Scotch Whisky put up by the above firm, is one of the best kinds of this popular drink we have tried for a long time, and is especially suitable for invalids, being comparatively free from Fusel Oil, now so frequently found in modern whisky. We can and do recommend this brand to those of our readers who partake of, or suggest the use of, such beverages. It can be obtained either through the ordinary wine merchant or direct from the above firm, who are the London wholesale agents.

"PERFUME."

(Messrs. SHARP BROS., 12, Southampton Row, London, W.C.)

In honour of the recent Royal Wedding, this firm have introduced a new perfume called the "Queen of the May." On the bottle in miniature form, is a photo of the Duchess of York, taken by the London Steroscopic Co. The perfume is of delicately refreshing aroma, and economical, since it retains its scent for a considerable time when in use. Its retail price is very moderate, which should commend it to public favour.

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)