

## "The Truth about the London Hospital."

THE following letters have been printed and circulated by the Committee of the Hospital.

GENTLEMEN,—We have seen with much indignation the renewed attacks on the management of the London Hospital that have lately appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. As old workers we seize this opportunity for offering an expression of our unflinching loyalty to the institution to which we owe so much. We should like to say how grateful we are in our daily work now for the teaching and experience we gained while at the London Hospital. The sound system of management, the discipline, the thorough training of Nurses, and the interest we were taught to take in every advance towards a high standard of work have been invaluable to us all, but especially to those of us who now occupy important posts in the nursing world.

Many of us in the first years of Miss Lückes's work at the Hospital were privileged to help her in her unwearied efforts to raise the standard of Nursing, and to improve the condition of Nurses. We have rejoiced in the success which crowns her work, and are proud to be numbered amongst her Nurses. This being the case, we wish to express to you how strongly we resent such malicious and unfounded imputations on the efficiency of the London Hospital as have lately appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

Whilst, however, we deeply deplore that such work should be harassed in the slightest degree, or made one whit more arduous than it must necessarily be, we have no fear for the ultimate result, chiefly because we have faith in our Matron and in our Hospital, and also because the traditions of that Hospital are carried far and wide by an ever-increasing band of workers who are jealous of its reputation and united by the common bond of their allegiance.

We respectfully request that you will convey this expression of our loyal feeling for the London Hospital (its Committee, Medical Staff, and our Matron), to his Royal Highness the President, and to the Court of Governors, and will take such means to make it public as you may think desirable.—We have the honour to sign ourselves, Gentlemen, your obedient Nurses,

*Signed by 246 Old London Hospital Workers.*

September 4th, 1893.

London Hospital, Whitechapel Road, E.,  
September, 1893.

*To the House Committee and Governors of the  
London Hospital:*

GENTLEMEN,—After many discussions amongst us, we have decided respectfully to lay before you the united protest of the undersigned, your nursing staff, against the persecution to which our institution, our matron, and ourselves have been subjected during the last three years, and which has now broken out afresh in the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

In taking this step, we are quite aware that our accusers will not hesitate to declare, as on former occasions, that we have been coerced into doing so. Therefore, we feel it necessary to begin by stating that this action is entirely voluntary on our part.

We ourselves are well aware that nothing could be more repugnant to the authorities whom we serve than the bare idea of interfering with our freedom of thought or action, and it must surely be evident to all unprejudiced persons that if any desire to oppress us existed, it would be wholly impossible to make a large body of free and independent women get up and sign anything of this sort against their own honest convictions. We, therefore, wish this to be taken, in the first instance, as an indication that we decline to be intimidated by anyone in taking any action we think right.

Besides many petty and unfounded accusations, we are charged with culpable waste of Hospital provisions; with allowing patients to suffer through our ignorance and neglect; and it is even said that we treat sick and suffering children with cruelty.

We entirely deny the truth of these statements, and claim that we are not the less interested in the welfare of the patients than the medical staff themselves, whose well-known confidence in us is a great encouragement in our work, and from whom we all receive unflinching kindness and courtesy.

We resent the imputations that these evils exist, as much as the equally false statement that they arise from mismanagement, for if such had been the case, we should certainly have felt it our united and bounden duty to call the attention of the authorities to such a disgraceful state of things.

Surely no reasonable person can suppose that amongst such a large number of women, none were sufficiently conscientious to bring wrong-doing to light, even if they thereby ran the risk of damaging their own professional prospects, which our accusers assume would be the case.

We object to being represented to the public as a down-trodden spiritless body of weak, incapable, discontented women, thinking of nothing but our food, our times off duty, regarding it a trouble to

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