

asserted at the time of the House of Lords' inquiry that there was no ground for the charges then made against them, and, in fact, denied everything said by their critics. As we have shown, the reforms which were then demanded, and which the Committee flatly denied to be necessary, have since been made, so that, of the standard of honour of the Committee, as a body, we cannot express our high esteem. The facts in connection with Miss FISHER'S case are so significant of the character of the Committee of the London Hospital, and so conclusively exhibit their ideas of truth and justice, that we ask the careful attention of our readers to Miss FISHER'S letter to the House Committee and their reply to her, which appear in another column.

A careful perusal of our shorthand reporter's notes of the Governors' Meeting have proved that our report was perfectly accurate. Miss FISHER'S letter, it will generally be felt, is couched in language the meaning of which no one could misunderstand. Mr. HAMPTON HALE denied the truth of a most serious statement which she made, and she has offered to prove her words; plainly intimating her belief that the Chairman of the London Hospital would shrink from any attempt to prove his. The incident, so far as we are aware, is unique. The Committees of most Hospitals are, at any rate, composed of Englishmen to whom truthfulness is a cardinal virtue. The London Hospital has, unhappily, fallen very low in the estimation of the public; but we say, without fear of contradiction, that if the Committee of that great Charity permit their Chairman to make statements at a public meeting which, when challenged, he neither proves nor withdraws and apologises for—the whole Committee will share with their Chairman the condemnation accorded by English gentlemen to such conduct, and their Institution will inevitably suffer with them. Mr. HAMPTON HALE has been practically challenged by Miss FISHER to prove that he has not "told a deliberate lie," and we prefer to believe it to be incredible that he should shrink from meeting such a charge. If, however, he does so shrink, the

Committee must realise that the result will be that the public will inevitably come to the conclusion that the statement made by Miss FISHER is true, and that statements made by officials of the London Hospital are possibly unworthy of credence.

The whole subject of these London Hospital scandals appears to us to be one to which the attention of Parliament might with great advantage be called, and we hope that some honourable member, of either House, will propose an immediate inquiry into the facts. Because, if the lives of the sick poor are recklessly endangered in the London Hospital, it is urgently needful that measures for their protection should at once be taken, and the attention of the Legislature could hardly be directed to a more important matter.

Miss FISHER'S letter speaks for, and sufficiently explains, itself. There are, however, two additional points connected with this subject to which attention may profitably be drawn, as additional proofs of the remarkably intimate knowledge possessed by the Chairman and the Treasurer concerning the Institution which they are supposed to control. Mr. HAMPTON HALE, stated—in reference to the ridiculous and unwarrantable system of dragging wearied Nurses over the roofs of the Hospital in the middle of a November night—that the Nurses knew the day they would be called on to perform this risky scramble—as if that made the danger less—"and if they were ill or had any complaint to make, they had only to go to the Governor and say it was not in their power to do the work." The Nurses at the London Hospital will enjoy this suggestion immensely. They know somewhat better than the Chairman apparently does, what would, probably, happen to them, and what would, perhaps, happen to the House Governor, if they went to that official over the Matron's head. The other statement to which we refer, was made by Mr. JOHN H. BUXTON, the Treasurer of the Hospital. He said, "It is a little bit unreasonable that a letter which has been cut from the NURSING RECORD, should have been sent out so that the Committee, which sat yesterday afternoon, should not have seen it, and have had an

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