

"The Truth about the London Hospital."

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THEIR DEFENCE.

THE following account of the Quarterly Court of the Governors of the London Hospital, held on Wednesday, the 6th inst., appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* on the following day:—

Mr. J. H. Buxton took the chair. Barely a hundred persons were present.

The secretary, Mr. Roberts, read the house committee's quarterly report, in which there was the following reference to the scandals:—

On July 24th, the chairman called the attention of the house committee to certain articles which had appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* on July 18th, 19th, and 22nd, making an attack on the management of the Hospital under the heading "The Truth about the London Hospital, by our Special Commissioner," who was said to have been sent to the Hospital as a paying Probationer to make inquiries, after an article on the Hospital had been published in the *Hospital* newspaper on June 5th. It was decided not to take any public action in regard to this, but as many of the staff and committee were leaving town for the vacation, it was felt to be advisable to hold a joint meeting of the house committee and staff to ascertain the general feeling. This meeting was accordingly held at the house of Sir Andrew Clark, in Cavendish Square, on Friday, July 28th, when a letter was sent to the editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*. (This letter, which duly appeared, is fully set out in the minutes.) Except in one instance all such adverse criticisms have been anonymous, and in reply to these many letters have been published from Nurses and others who have worked or are working in the Hospital, in the most cordial terms, refuting such charges as were made. Though the committee and the officers have carefully carried out their original decision not to enter into any discussion in the public press on the details of the work which has been entrusted to them by the governors of the Hospital, the committee is further most gratified to be able to report that a letter which has been signed, as stated in the introductory passages of the letter itself, entirely of their own free will, by over 260 members of the nursing staff, has been sent in to the chairman. In addition to this eloquent testimony of the happiness of the

nursing staff generally, on Monday, September 4th, a deputation of old workers in the institution waited upon the committee, and also presented a letter signed by over 200 late members of the nursing staff, and at the same time spoke in the highest possible terms of the excellent training they have received here.

In view, therefore, of these strong refutations of such criticisms as have been made, the committee have unanimously decided that no further action of any sort is advisable, and they earnestly hope that the governors will co-operate in convincing the public of the little value to be attached to the articles recently appearing in the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

"SOME AWFULLY GROSS MISSTATEMENTS."

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, at once directed his remarks to the attacks which have been made on the Hospital. The letters of the Special Commissioner of the *Pall Mall Gazette* contained, he at the outset asserted, "some awfully gross misstatements," and the first of these "gross misstatements" was that the articles were written by a "Special Commissioner." The chairman did not explain wherein the misstatement lay, but his sentiments were immediately applauded by a few gentlemen present, who were presumably Governors. Another point he made was that the letters were all anonymous "with the one honourable exception" of the letter written by Mrs. Hunter. Mr. Buxton next contrasted the Hospital with what it was eight or ten years ago, and took credit for the steady, progressive reforms which had been effected, hampered only by a weak banking account. The London Hospital had led the way in the reform of internal management. The people who had written the letters complained of the food of the Nurses, but the Nurses themselves were satisfied with the food. Ten years ago it was not so, but now the Nurses have their own kitchen and their food was settled by themselves. The critics talked of feeding Nurses at the end of a heavy day on a sardine. (A laugh.) Now, the change of food was so great that for ten days or a fortnight it was rarely the same, and because a Nurse chose to ask for a kipper or a sardine or other tasty food for a change that was laid hold of to show how disgracefully they were treated. It had also been repeated *ad nauseam* that the work was incessant. Now every Nurse besides the time for dinner received two hours off as a minimum, and in the daytime. Another unjust charge was that the Nurses who were sent out to private cases were indifferently paid. The private Nurses received £28 to £40 a year—

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](#)