

he thought there was ground for inquiry in the fact that the Lords' Committee had made certain recommendations, and those recommendations had not been carried out. It had been admitted by the friends of the Hospital that Nurses went from the erysipelas ward to nurse children with tracheotomy. That showed a most reckless disregard of the ordinary rules of medical practice.

The Chairman: There is not a word of truth in it.

Dr. Fenwick: It is admitted in the Hospital that it is true.

Mr. Hale: That Nurses go is untrue. Sisters go, as I go, from one ward to another. The doctors know it, and have known it for years.

Dr. Fenwick: It is an extraordinary thing, and I am astonished to hear it. There is no use quibbling about it, for it is altogether wrong. The charges have been made by a responsible paper, and they ought to be called upon to substantiate them. The governors ought to agree to the appointment of a committee to inquire, and he moved accordingly.

#### STRIVING AFTER PERFECTION.

Sir Andrew Clark made an eloquent little speech, the tone of which was very moderate. In short, he did not claim that the London Hospital was perfect, but they were striving after it, and he knew no Hospital which was superior to it in its medical, domestic and nursing arrangements. As to those who found fault, he was afraid they did not do it in a loving spirit. As a man of the world, and with some experience of affairs, he had formed the opinion that there was a savour of malice in these attacks. There was no just ground for them, and it was an immoral action to imperil the good work that was being done. Dr. Fenwick proposed that they should meet the challenge of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and submit to an inquiry into the truth of the allegations. He was surprised that a man of Dr. Fenwick's abilities, judgment and experience should propose such a thing. It would throw the whole Hospital into confusion, and at the end of the inquiry they would be no better than they were to-day. His solemn conviction was that if the committee should decline to accept the challenge they would be acting prudently, wisely, and justly, and he trusted that no complaints from such quarters would move them from that decision.

Mr. Hunter did not see why those who had brought complaints should be put down as being actuated by the motive of desiring to injure the Hospital. The only people who had injured the Hospital were the members of the house committee. These complaints have been brought again

and again from different quarters, and that fact should show that there was something in the arrangements that required investigation.

Dr. Fenwick's proposal not being seconded, the report was adopted.

On the same day the following editorial appeared in our influential contemporary's columns:—

#### A MISTAKEN VIEW.

Yesterday afternoon was held the quarterly meeting of the "Governors" of the London Hospital, at which the criticisms made by our Special Commissioner and others on certain alleged defects in the management of that Institution came in for much notice. The title of Governor is very misleading in this connection, for governing seems to be the last thing which the ladies and gentlemen so described ever dream of doing. They are exceedingly constitutional rulers, for they may reign, but they certainly do not govern. There are, we believe, some four thousand subscribers thus dignified, and of these less than a hundred attended to hear what the Committee had to say concerning the grave issues raised in our columns. Amongst them, we are informed, was a not inconsiderable sprinkling of the relatives and personal friends of the Committee, and of the tradesmen who supply the Hospital with goods. But the numbers would not have mattered if the discussion had been satisfactory. It was hardly discussion in any sense of the term. The report and the speech of the Treasurer were largely devoted to attacks upon our Commissioner, to flat denials of the criticism passed, and of epithets which made up in forcibleness what they lacked in politeness. The Chairman of the House Committee distinguished himself in his brief remarks by sweeping imputations of dishonest and uncharitable motives, while the speakers who followed on the same side confined themselves to eulogies of the good work of the Hospital, eulogies which we thoroughly endorse—since we have always gratefully recognized the magnificent services rendered to the sick and suffering by the London Hospital—but which were hardly germane to the criticisms on the management made by our Commissioner and by others. Sir Andrew Clark was present, and threw his ægis over Matron, management, and Committee in eloquent, and we must add, strictly diplomatic language. He declared that neither the criticisms published in these columns nor any criticisms ought to move the Committee to consent to an inquiry such as we have proposed, because, he said, the result of such an

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