

attend to our patients, and unable to fight our own battles if the need arises.

What we wish to make clear is, that if grievances do exist, we are capable of laying our own case before our Matron and the Committee without the intervention of outsiders.

It must be plain to everyone that those without any practical knowledge of Hospital work are the least qualified to lay down the law concerning the supposed needs of nurses and patients, however much they may desire to pose as the friends of helpless Nurses, and those who, with a mere smattering of knowledge gained by brief and unsuccessful experience here, have taken upon themselves to dictate to experienced workers, how wards are to be managed and patients are to be nursed, have at any rate succeeded in proving to us all how utterly unworthy they were of any permanent connection with us.

There is no injustice done to the Nurses here equal to the cruel injustice done to our Matron by the most unjust and personal attacks, which are constantly being made upon her by the same few persons, the truth of which, as you are well aware, is indignantly denied by a very large majority of past and present London Hospital Sisters and Nurses.

The Sisters, specially, are well aware of the terrible strain under which the Matron has carried on the work for the last three years, and they wish to bear testimony to the unswerving support she has always been to them, and without the certainty of which Hospital discipline and training would have been absolutely impossible.

We are quite conscious that the Treasurer, the Chairman and the Committee must know from their own personal observation, that what we have stated is and always has been the general feeling on these matters throughout the Hospital, and as we are not a set of weak-minded women, all the persistent efforts made to shake our confidence have been in vain. But we should also like the public to recognise, that whereas the attacks come mainly from outsiders and disappointed probationers, whose views are probably not unbiassed by their own failures, the refutation comes from tried and experienced workers, many of whom have been in your service a number of years, and who have given evidence that their desire is to show zeal and devotion in their chosen work, and to do credit to the training they have received.

We have decided amongst ourselves that the time has come for us to make this formal and united protest against these mischievous attacks, and to express our firm unshaken loyalty to the House Committee, the Medical Staff, and our Matron.

It is our earnest request that you will kindly have this manifesto of the nursing staff of the London Hospital made known to the President and the Governors, that they, receiving this assurance of our perfect contentment with existing arrangements, will do their utmost to put a final stop to the constant interference of our so-called friends, the result of which is only to cause needless annoyance to all concerned.

Finally, we venture to express our wish that as these malicious charges against us have been so industriously set for by our accusers in the public press, you will kindly give equal publicity in the same direction to this voluntary statement by those who have unquestionable right to form and express their judgment on the questions raised.

Signed by 263 Nurses at present working in the London Hospital.

The following article by the Special Commissioner of the *Pall Mall Gazette* and the subsequent important letter appeared in our contemporary on the 13th inst. :—

I desire briefly to sum up the case of the London Hospital so far as it has been presented to the public through the columns of the *Pall Mall Gazette*. I desire first to make it plain that I went into the London Hospital as a Paying Probationer prejudiced, if at all, in favour of the institution.

What I saw and heard there I have reported without fear or favour, and it represents the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. I am prepared to give chapter and verse for every statement which I have made, and have still other facts which I can adduce if opportunity be afforded me. This opportunity I fully expected to receive, believing that in the Committee of the London Hospital I was dealing with a body of gentlemen of sensitive honour, who would immediately clear their hands of complicity in the waste of public money and the general mismanagement which I exposed, by calling upon me publicly to prove or to retract the charges which I made against them. I have been as much astonished as the public seems to be at the manner in which these gentlemen have acted.

I should like, in the first place, to ask whether any rational being actually believes that all the many rumours that are afloat to the discredit of the Nursing department of the London Hospital are sheer inventions; whether all this smoke implies no vestige of fire; whether the Select Committee of the House of Lords deliberately recommended important reforms which were absolutely unnecessary, and were not justified in ascribing the mismanagement of the Hospital, proved to exist

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](#)