

partment of the Institution in question were not only true but erred on the side of incompleteness, and that much was kept back which it would have been for the benefit of the public to have had revealed. But the Committee of the Hospital denied everything and anything advanced against their management. They appointed three of their number to hold an inquiry. These gentlemen had a brief interview with *one* of the witnesses against the Institution, and then issued a solemn Report stating that the charges were untrue. As we have, on more than one occasion, pointed out, this very Report not only contradicted itself in important particulars, but also largely corroborated the truth of the accusations made against the Hospital. The salient point, however, to which we desire now to draw attention is that this is the London Hospital's idea of an inquiry—to appoint some of the accused persons to deliver judgment upon themselves! If it were not so serious, the plan would be wildly farcical.

Before we go further, we would therefore say this. The next inquiry must be a public investigation. It must be conducted by perfectly independent and unbiassed persons, who are totally unconnected with the Committee, and whose honour and sense of justice is beyond suspicion.

Now, during the last three years we have made very serious statements concerning the London Hospital because we held, and still hold, that the evil odour attaching to that Institution reflects the greatest discredit upon, and works, therefore, irreparable harm to, many other Institutions. The Committee had a great opportunity, in 1890, of proving that they had nothing to hide or conceal. They should have, themselves, demanded the fullest investigation of their affairs, and have courted publicity in every detail. Instead of doing so, they pretended that the charges were "attacks." They went whining about, pleading for pity for the Hospital. They tried to intimidate, and, then, in public meeting, howled down their critics. They lost the confidence of the public at once, and their growing financial embarrassment proves the extent of the loss.

Surely, they must see now how purblind their policy has been. They have been compelled, while denying the need for reforms,

to make the reforms demanded, as we have pointed out and proved from their own Annual Reports. During the whole of the three years, they have never silenced the few honourable and independent Governors who, at Court after Court, have renewed their protests against some evils, while congratulating the Committee upon carrying out other improvements, the adoption of which, they had urged, but the need for which the Committee has as strenuously denied. During all this time, the Hospital has sunk lower and lower in public estimation as the real truth of its management gradually became better known, and the pitiable failure of its latest appeal for £100,000 must, surely, have taught the Committee the shortsighted foolishness of their policy.

During all this time the Medical Staff have apparently been supine, and have permitted the Committee to pursue their course unchecked if, indeed, they have not aided them in so doing. Verily, they seem likely to have their reward; because, if our information is correct, they will speedily find that their Medical School, which we believe, was formerly one of the most flourishing in the Metropolis, is suffering, like the Hospital, from the loss of public confidence, and is rapidly dwindling in importance.

As our readers will have observed, the question of the London Hospital is once more before the public in a more serious form than ever before. One of the leading London journals has, with an enterprise which does it great credit, sent, as a paying probationer, into the Hospital one of its journalistic staff—a lady who, it is quite evident, possesses eyes which are as keen as her pen. She has, without fear or favour, and purely as a matter of business, reported to her Editor, "the Truth about the London Hospital." And, in the same spirit, the Editor has published her statements. So the matter stands at present. Up to the time we go to press, the authorities of the London Hospital have made no reply, and we, therefore, refrain, for another week, from saying more upon the matter, except that it is certain that the Pall Mall Gazette must, for its journalistic reputation which is at stake, carry this matter through, and, for the sake of the public, must demand that the necessary reforms shall be made at the London Hospital.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)