

they grew harsh and impatient. Several Nurses I know simply terrified the children into obedience. The mere fact that the night Probationer washed children in Queen Ward between the hours of four and five a.m. and in Beatrice from five to six, and then cleared away the breakfast things—and from that hour onwards until we came off duty at 9.20 we were all tearing through the work so that the ward should be speckless before the doctors entered it at 9.30—will give your readers some notion of the consideration with which the sick and often dying patients, and the Nurses, were treated by the authorities in the London Hospital. I will conclude by saying that almost everything mentioned by your Special Commissioner was in the same state of disorganisation, below the surface when I was in the Hospital.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
E. M.

This letter, to my mind, exposes one of the most lamentable results of the overwork of the Nurses—the cruelty of lack of sufficient attention to helpless children. I have heard this terrible accusation before, and it will be remembered that it was amongst the charges brought forward by Miss YATMAN before the Select Committee of the House of Lords. I would suggest that Mr. BENJAMIN WAUGH should interview “E. M.,” and if evidence is forthcoming, prosecute on behalf of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

“Sir,—Quite casually last evening I saw an account of the London Hospital commencing on the 18th inst., and having only recently left the Hospital, after more than a year in that Institution, I am naturally interested in others’ opinion of the place. Your Correspondent is not known to me, but I must endorse what she says about Probationers being sent out to private cases after only a year in the Hospital—the most part of that year having been spent in doing menial work. I have one Probationer in my mind now, K— by name, who herself told me that she was warned at the office not to mention that she was not fully trained, and that it was her first private case. She had been a little more than a year in the Hospital at that time. How the Governor or Chairman can attempt to refute these statements in the face of facts I cannot imagine, when it could be so easily proved. The Committee, and even the doctors themselves, know but very little of the working of the Institution behind the scenes. It was indignation at the injustice and unfairness of the management that caused me to resign.”—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
M. L.

This lady throws light upon the system termed, “not very far short of fraudulent,” by Lord KIMBERLEY at the Lords’ Inquiry—the system of sending out semi-trained pupils as “thoroughly trained Nurses,” as advertised daily in the *Times*. We have a good deal of evidence on this point, and know for example of a Probationer who was dressed up in the green outdoor uniform of the private staff before being sent out.

“Sir,—It is perfectly hopeless to expect any reforms to be made by the present Committee of the London Hospital, although there is known to be a minority of gentlemen among their number who have protested

against the present mis-management of the Hospital. The leading spirits of the Committee are entirely under the control of the Matron, to whom they have openly delegated complete authority, so that it has become an acknowledged fact that any appeal from her decision is an absolute farce. Those Governors who have dared to criticise the mismanagement have been publicly and privately denounced as attacking the Hospital from personal motives—their criticisms have been hooted down by an obedient clique who have worthily maintained the reputation of Whitechapel. Their resolutions have been outvoted by small majorities, composed entirely of members of the incriminated Committee and of tradesmen in the neighbourhood who are dependent upon the Committee for their continued custom at the Hospital. Thus disinterested justice has no chance of securing reforms in the face of a combination of self-interest and self-opinionated ignorance.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A GOVERNOR OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

This letter corroborates the statement of “A late London Hospital Sister,” that the “management is rotten to the core.” That tradesmen who supply the Hospital with goods should have a vote concerning its management is nothing short of a corrupt practice, productive of jobbery of the most reprehensible kind.

“Sir,—From the columns of your paper I see that the ‘London Hospital scandals’ are once more on the tapis. There is no smoke without fire, and the frequency with which these complaints against the arrangements of this Institution are made must convince the most incredulous that there is a furnace, temporarily damped down, but by no means extinguished. As one of the community who has from time to time been disquieted and distressed by reports of all that is said to exist at the London Hospital, may I express a hope that the period has at last arrived when a public inquiry into its drawbacks will be held. Several ladies who have worked there are personally known to me, and they have one and all complained bitterly of the very same abuses set forth by your Commissioner. Surely it would be better to give these charges a chance of being publicly disproved than to let it be supposed that the authorities shun the light of investigation. The Committee may imagine that by burking inquiry and hushing up grievances they are restoring and strengthening public confidence in their management. But of late I have frequently heard the attitude adopted by these gentlemen described as the shadiest feature of the whole dusky business.”—I remain, faithfully yours,
FAIRPLAY.

The last sentence of this letter will commend itself to the public, considering the “emphatic denials” *minus* proof of this most ill-advised Committee.

“Sir,—I should like to bring the case of a lady I know, who for some years was a Nurse in the London Hospital, before the public, because I have always been exceedingly indignant at the manner in which she was treated there, and it proves again the accusation made by so many of your correspondents, that the Committee are mere puppets in the hands of a despotic Matron. My friend, Miss C—— was trained for two years in the London Hospital, gained the good opinion of all her colleagues, passed an excellent examination, and was

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