

public, to *prove* that these accusations are false, and the sooner they do so the better for the sake of their own reputations and that of the London Hospital.—Yours faithfully,
AN INTERESTED READER."

We hope that our contemporary, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, will insist upon answers being forthcoming to an "inquiring public" to the questions of "An Interested Reader," before it finishes with the London Hospital question.

SIR,—In accordance with your instructions, and in order to simplify, and, at the same time to emphasize the chief points raised in my articles, and in the subsequent correspondence on the above subject, I will summarize the charges which I have made, and the infinitely more serious accusations made by the other writers.

My charges were:—

1. That there was a great waste of good food in the wards.
2. That there are too few Nurses for the amount of work to be done, and, therefore, that the patients cannot be properly attended to.
3. That the Nurses are treated with injustice, are over-worked, indifferently fed, and sweated out of their earnings at the option of the Matron.
4. That it is unjust to the public to send out half-trained Probationers as 'thoroughly-trained private Nurses.'
5. That the Matron does not personally supervise the ward management, which is the principal duty of every Hospital Matron, and is, therefore, entirely dependent upon second-hand information for the knowledge of the character of the Nurses and the quality of their practical work.
6. That the lives of the patients are unnecessarily risked in the isolation and erysipelas wards.

The truth of the charges is 'emphatically denied' by the House Committee, but so far that body has taken no steps either to disprove one word which I have said, or to accede to your suggestion of an impartial inquiry into the matter.

Now, I ask your readers to note that from all sides you have received corroboration of the truth of my statements and the above charges contained therein. The various correspondents have made the following additional charges against the management of the Hospital, which are far more incriminating than any I have made. They are:—

1. That the safety and comfort of the patients are endangered by the ignorance of the Probationers, who are placed in charge of wards as day or night Sisters.
2. That the lives of patients have been sacrificed through the ignorance of Probationers and insufficient number of Nurses.
3. That Nurses were compelled to sign a paper in support of the Matron at the time of the Metropolitan Hospitals Inquiry, declaring that *charges of which they did not know the nature* were untrue. And that in at least one instance *forgery* was committed, and a Nurse's name appended to this document without her knowledge or consent.
4. That the committee is 'weak,' and the Matron 'a strong ruler,' 'virtually an autocrat.' These statements coming from a defender and 'Friend of the Hospital.'
5. That patients have been treated with cruelty (especially the children) and neglect.
6. That probationers have been warned at the office when going to their first private cases, not to let it be known that they have had no former experience in private nursing.
7. That Nurses have been known to faint in the lecture-room from lack of nourishment and from over fatigue.

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8. That a medical man has been heard to swear at a Sister in the operating theatre, aggravated by her ignorance and consequent stupidity.

9. That the accounts of the Private Nursing business which is conducted by the Matron is kept studiously secret and unpublished, therefore the balance sheet submitted to the Governors as a full and faithful account of the Hospital's receipts and expenditure is thus incomplete and misleading.

10. That the certificates of training of the Nurses are qualified at the discretion of the Matron, and thus a system of terrorism can be exercised.

11. That the Matron having the power to discharge Nurses at her option, any appeal from the Nurse to the House Committee has been proved futile.

12. That Governors who have criticized the mismanagement have been accused of "attacking the Hospital from personal motives, their criticisms hooted down by an obedient claue and their resolutions outvoted by small majorities composed of members of the incriminated committee and of tradesmen in the neighbourhood who are dependent upon the committee for the continued custom of the Hospital."—I am, Sir,

August 10.

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We have before now referred to the excellent quality of all the goods manufactured by this firm, so it leaves little more for me to say than that they have now added to their "Edelweisse" repute a new Tooth Paste and Cold Cream bearing this name, both of which are so good in their variedness that we can but anticipate a very successful future for them, particularly the "Cream," as it is undoubtedly most fragrant and soothing to the skin.

Replies to Correspondents.

Nurse C.—If a public inquiry is held we presume that the Nurses will be permitted, if not invited, to give evidence upon oath as to matters within their knowledge. We have forwarded your important statement to the proper quarter, and are glad to hear that your late colleagues are at length proving that they have a little self-respect, and are declining to be terrorised any longer.

Hospital Secretary.—We will have much pleasure in making the inquiries you wish, and will forward you whatever information we receive.

Rev. T. S.; Mrs. Althorp; Doubtful; and a Nurse's Father.—We quite agree with your opinion. The scandal is notorious, and if you will refer to our back volumes you will see that we have again and again referred to it. It rests with the public to demand inquiry and reform.

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