

Then comes a column on the ever interesting subject of the R. B. N. A. and the benefits of registration, and the conclusion of the interview is significant :—

"The interviewer who has been told a great deal wants to know more. Consequently I tried to elicit something further from the ex-hospital Matron. "Were Hospitals satisfactorily governed at present?"

No; Mrs. Fenwick thought the whole system, or want of system, most unsatisfactory. Any rich, well-meaning gentleman, however unacquainted with Hospital matters, could, on payment of a certain sum of money, become a life governor. The result of this plan was that the average governing body was entirely in the hands of the officials, who could manage the whole institution autocratically. "I dislike, extremely," said Mrs. Fenwick, "all that tends towards institutionalism or the growth of a close corporation. When I think about this subject, I am often reminded of the ancient Hospitals of the Knights Templar, where it was the rule that a stream of clear water should run through every ward. It is just such a stream," she added, speaking with intensity, "the wholesome stream of public opinion, that we need to flow through our Hospitals. But the opinion must be educated. And that is why I wish so much to see women upon Hospital committees. Women have the leisure to give to the study of Hospital management which the average man of business lacks, and if we could encourage some women to do for Hospitals what Miss Louisa Twining has done for Workhouse Infirmaries, many petty abuses would be swept away."

\* \* \*

MRS. FENWICK is known to be strongly in opposition to "Ladies Committees." Her opinion is founded on the natural law that men and women are the complement of each other, and that they should live and work on equal terms—the one sex supplying the deficiencies of the other.

\* \* \*

A CORRESPONDENT writes: I send you a clipping from the *Medical Times and Hospital Gazette* re the London Hospital. Who is the medical editor who has the courage to mention the subject? It may interest him to know that about a month ago a patient was moved from a general ward to the isolation ward upon the supposition that he was suffering with scarlet fever, before the disease had been diagnosed by the House Physician, and without his permission or even his knowledge. When this gross breach of etiquette was reported to the young House Governor, he replied that it was done "by the order of the Matron." Which, I presume, was quite sufficient answer for the H.P., as the matter was never brought before the House Committee, or Medical Staff. Nothing could prove more significantly the "absolute autocracy" of the Matron than the fact that the resident medical staff of the London Hospital permit her to snub them in this way without daring to protest; but I presume, the "Pairman case" has not yet been

**The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.**

forgotten, and, like the Nurses, these young gentlemen have meekly learnt their lesson. The extract from our influential contemporary—whose Editor is well known for possessing the courage of his convictions—is as follows :—

"For some years past there have been disquieting rumours concerning the management of the London Hospital, especially in regard to the Nursing arrangements. These, my readers will remember, occupied the attention of the Select Committee of the House of Lords which enquired into the condition of the Metropolitan Hospitals some two years ago, when some serious charges were brought against the Nursing department of the Institution which, however, the Committee did not hold to be proven, seeing that there was a direct conflict of evidence. It was hoped that matters would settle down after the report of the Committee, but rumours have from time to time been heard that all was not working smoothly. The "Pall Mall Gazette," always well to the front in matters of this kind, a short time ago, determined, if possible, to elicit the truth, and therefore instructed a lady member of its staff to enter the Institution as a paying Probationer. This lady, after a stay which apparently did not extend over three months, furnished a report which was published in the "Pall Mall" a few weeks ago, in the form of articles headed, "The Truth about the London Hospital." The articles were cleverly written, and contained statements which amounted to a sweeping condemnation of the present management of the institution. Allegations are made of extravagance, waste of food, lack of control over the Nurses, overworking of the Nursing staff, neglect of the patients, and deception of the public by sending out to private cases Probationers as trained Nurses. The Treasurer and Chairman of the Hospital replied to the allegations in a letter which appeared in the "Pall Mall" of August 2nd, in which they emphatically denied the truth of the charges. It is not for me to say on what side the truth lies, but I am strongly of opinion that the matter should now be sifted to the bottom. "The London" is a public Institution maintained by public funds, and charges of mis-management having been made, the Committee of the Hospital would be well advised to demand an independent Committee of Inquiry, so that the truth or falsity of the charges may be established. Unless some steps in this direction are taken I shall not be surprised if the attention of Parliament is directed to the matter."

\* \* \*

THE nursing department of the Mill Hill Infirmary seems to provide the *Liverpool Evening Express* with endless "copy." Now they are fighting over the piano for the Nurses' Home, and it seems a thousand pities that there should be such a singular lack of tact and good manners in the management of the nursing department of the Infirmary.

\* \* \*

I HEAR that Miss ANNESLEY KENEALY is having a very good time in Chicago, and has nearly completed her official duties as Judge of Nursing and Hygienic Awards. Miss Kenealy and her British colleagues, Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. McCullum, gave a most brilliant afternoon reception at Vic-

**The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.**

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)