

in that Institution to truly fulfil the spirit as well as the letter of the law ; this law certainly with regard to patients, might be aptly described by the familiar words, 'To strengthen such as do stand, to comfort and help the weak-hearted, to raise them up that fall.'—Trusting to your courtesy to insert this, I remain, yours faithfully,

MARGARET R. NICHOL."

To the EDITOR of the PALL MALL GAZETTE.

"SIR,—I was a Probationer at the London Hospital for six months in 1887 and for the same period in 1889. During that time I was treated with constant kindness and consideration. I have never met with kinder friends than I found among the Sisters and Staff-Nurses. There was plenty of food provided, and quite time enough given to eat it in. It was always perfectly possible for a Nurse or Probationer to see the Matron if she expressed a wish to do so, and complaints could also be made to the Home Sister or to the Matron's Assistants. I know, by personal experience, how much attention was paid to comparatively slight ailments of Probationers. It was not until I went to another well-known General Hospital that I fully realized how much was done for the comfort of the Nurses at the London in the matter of sleeping accommodation, orderly service at meals, punctuality about food, and time off duty, and all the minor details which make life so much harder or easier. I feel sure that any one trying another Hospital after the London would agree with me. Of course, Hospital work is, and must be, trying, and demands exceptional self-denial and pluck, and it is a thousand pities that the many women who break down in it from the lack of the necessary physical and moral stamina will not attribute their failure to its true cause instead of trying to soothe their wounded vanity by injurious attacks on the Hospital.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CECILA M. A. SIMEON."

On the same day, the following excellent Editorial appeared in our contemporary, which seems surprised at the extraordinary attitude assumed by the London Hospital Committee.

"LONDON HOSPITAL.

We have waited patiently for some time to give the Committee of the London Hospital a full opportunity of meeting the criticisms made upon the management of that Institution by our Special Commissioner. The weekly organ which holds a brief for the Committee—whether self-prepared or

drawn for it we know not—intimated that a libel suit would be entered against us. We have no desire to be involved in litigation, but on the other hand we are always prepared to accept full responsibility for statements published by us. So far no step has been taken in that direction, and, but for the mere denial of the truth of our Commissioner's statements by the Committee, and a boisterous attack upon her and us, in the columns of the *Hospital*, no attempt at disproof has been made. Now this obviously will not do. And we will show why. Lady George Hamilton, in an exceedingly able letter to us, which we publish to-day, gives an excellent reason for our demand for an impartial inquiry into the charges against the management of the London Hospital. 'Its income,' she writes, 'is almost entirely derived from voluntary subscriptions. Any wholesale sweeping attack on the management of such an Institution means a heavy and certain crippling of its resources, and an increase of suffering and distress in the district to whose wants its alms minister.' We should be the last to injure intentionally an Institution which has done and is doing such admirable and philanthropic work in the relief of human suffering as the London Hospital. Our motive was quite other than that. We would gladly see the income and resources of the Hospital doubled, tripled, and quadrupled. But to secure this result—and we believe it can be attained—the management of the Hospital must inspire the benevolent with complete confidence. That confidence does not exist. Lady George Hamilton must be aware—for she has taken a very keen interest in the welfare of the Institution—that ugly rumours have long been afloat of remediable abuses. It was with the object of investigating these rumours that we instructed our Commissioner to make inquiries and to report. That her mission should be unknown to the management was an essential condition of its being thorough and genuine. A personally conducted inquiry is of no value whatever.

The result of her investigations we have given to the world. And here, again, Lady George Hamilton mistakes the relations of a newspaper to its commissioners. 'The fact,' she writes, 'that the writer of the adverse criticism is dubbed *Pall Mall* Special Commissioner, precludes your paper from impartially considering the merits of a controversy in which it is thus personally involved, for the *Pall Mall Gazette* having once assumed the rôle of leading counsel for the attack, cannot subsequently discharge the duties of judge and jury.' With profound respect we maintain that

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