

# Apollinaris

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## THE Nursing Record.

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The Hospital World.

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#### Editorial.

THE greatest interest has naturally been aroused, in professional circles, by the charges which were brought against the management of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, and the conclusions which were arrived at by the influential Committee appointed to investigate the matter.

The Medical Officer of Health for Chelsea stated officially to his Vestry that the Hospital was in an unsatisfactory sanitary condition; that there had been

during the preceding year, a most unusual number of deaths after operations, and that many of these appeared to be due to a preventable disease—for such septicæmia is now recognised to be. He recommended that the Hospital should be closed, and that the necessary sanitary improvements should be effected. There seems good reason to believe that if the officials had courteously and wisely supplied Dr. PARKES, at once, with the information for which he sought, and which, as the Medical Officer of Health, he had a legal right, and, indeed, an official duty, to demand, the necessary structural alterations in the Hospital might have been carried out without attracting public attention to the matter. It appears, however, that this course was not pursued, for Dr. PARKES reported to his Vestry that he had "applied to the Hospital authorities for authenticated details, explanatory of these mortality statistics, but had not, so far, been favoured with any reply." When the Vestry's discussion of this report became public, the medical staff took the further unwise step of writing to the Press, stating that Dr. PARKES's statements were unfounded and misleading.

It is a matter of deep regret that so many Hospital authorities consider themselves bound to "emphatically deny" anything and everything said against their management. This does not carry conviction to unbiassed minds, especially when, as is usually the case, the said authorities resolutely decline to permit any public inquiry into the matter.

The Chelsea Vestry, however, is evidently a difficult body to "bluff," because it did not rest until a Committee of Inquiry was appointed, consisting of such influential and independent persons

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)