

general practitioner, the first consideration is not after all his welfare, but, the greatest good of the greatest number, that of the patients being the first consideration. Further, Mr. Ross seems to forget that his own argument holds good in relation to the midwife question. "Practical work will tell in the long run—jealousy is often at the root of these quibbles." For the latter reason we think it most likely those medical men whose financial interests are not involved, and who are, therefore, in a position to consider the question dispassionately, the more likely to come to a just conclusion with regard to the Midwives' Bill. All the same, we do not think it is likely that the Bill will be passed in its present form. We sincerely hope not.

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THE "British Medical Journal," commenting on the debate in the House of Commons on the nursing in the late Egyptian Campaign, says: "The difficulties of discipline were alleged as reasons against having more trained women nurses. The debate on the whole was unsatisfactory, as it left the impression that some unwise economy had been exercised, and the matter is sure to crop up again in some form or other." We are glad that this is the opinion of our contemporary. We hope the matter will continue to crop up until an adequate nursing staff, under a trained superintendent at headquarters is established. There will always be difficulties of discipline so long as the selection and control of women nurses is left in the hands of the opposite sex.

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COLONEL LONSDALE HALE, writing to the "Times," in reference to Mr. Wyndham's explanations in the House of Commons in connection with the nursing arrangements in the Ondurman Campaign, says: "To military men Mr. Wyndham's attempts at explanation and justification are so transparently futile that no comment on them is required; but to the public generally they may appear to carry weight which they do not possess; and it is deeply to be regretted that Mr. Wyndham should feel himself compelled to accept the views and promptings of people behind the scenes, who, apparently, have not the moral courage to come forward and make the sole 'amende' asked for, the frank and honest avowal of a mistake, and the promise that it shall not occur again. That, and that only, is all that is sought for. Unfortunately, Mr. Wyndham has followed their lead. He denies that any mistake was made, and he sees no reason for any difference in future. He told the House of Commons 'that after the most careful consideration of the matter he was persuaded that adequate arrange-

ments for the sick and wounded had been made, and that British soldiers were treated on this occasion as they should always be treated.'"

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COLONEL LONSDALE HALE then comments on the inconsistency of Mr. Wyndham's statements with regard to the application of the medical department for a hospital ship, which he explains by saying that, "at the War Office, as presumably in all public departments, there are two languages, of which either is employed according to official needs; one is ordinary English, the other a somewhat corrupt dialect or official jargon. In the first explanation Mr. Wyndham used the former; for some reason best known to his advisers and himself, he in the second explanation used the dialect. Colonel Lonsdale Hale continues: "If these lines come to the notice of Mr. Wyndham, he will, I am sure, not regard me as discourteous when I say that in the face of the deliberate assertions made to me in ordinary English, and not in official dialect, by men of undoubted honour, I am unable to accept his version of the matter until I see it supported by chapter and verse taken from the non-expurgated and non-edited correspondence. Until then I hold to my belief that a bona fide actual application was made, and that a wish, entertained at the War Office, to save expense, led to its practical refusal at the time. In any case there was an admitted possibility that there might be a renewed application for the ship; and yet not a finger was moved at the War Office to prepare a ship for this possible eventuality, so when the application came, "too late," was the excuse, though it was not "too late."

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AND now what are we to think of those people on whom Mr. Wyndham has depended for information? Mr. Wyndham tells us, "he has been informed that the hospital at Cairo gave far better accommodation than could be afforded on board ship." Now not only is the Cairo Hospital insalubrious and bad, but so limited is the accommodation that English ladies in Cairo actually established some little time ago private hospitals outside it for the benefit of officers. Let Mr. Wyndham think twice before he trusts those informants again.

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MR. WYNDHAM'S treatment of the question of the transport of the sick to England, is on a par with his previous utterances. He tells us, apparently with triumphant satisfaction, that owing to the non-employment of a hospital ship, and the arrangements made in consequence, 280 sick and wounded men were brought home by the ordinary passenger steamers, whereas the

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