

mind, it seems little short of murder, and I trust that it will be most seriously considered before District Nurses hold the post of District Midwives as well. Nothing could possibly be more at variance with the laws of health than to have these two (both most useful and necessary in their separate work) combined.

### NURSING ECHOES.

\*.\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

It is very remarkable what a widespread interest is being taken in the recent revelations at the London Hospital. Mr.



Editor wishes me to say that he will put in as many communications each week as he can find space for, and all that are for the Hospital defence. The many letters already received are all from the Nurses' stand-

point, and some of them will, by their plain unvarnished tale, arouse no little public indignation. A daily contemporary has been spasmodically inserting letters during the last fortnight, chiefly from the other side, and if some of our correspondents are correct, withholding important communications if adverse to the Hospital, a fact which, as one of our readers points out, is hardly calculated to increase its reputation for impartial justice. However, the letters which have appeared are chiefly remarkable for the marked aversion displayed by the writers to confute the facts, arguments, and statements advanced at the late inquiry. They indulge largely in beautiful platitudes, or anxious defences of the Matron, though many have noticed that no mention was made of this lady by Miss Yatman and her friends, and one is therefore irresistibly reminded of the old proverb, *qui s'excuse s'accuse*.

GREAT amusement has been caused by a letter signed "A Late House Physician," evidently from a very youthful gentleman. He is going "to startle the House of Lords" by all sorts of wonderful revelations. Naturally this modern Guy Fawkes shrouds his name and his fell intentions in mystery. But "let the bloated aristocrats beware." He is a Democrat, *i.e.*, "Daniel come to judgment." He approves of the London Hospital because it is "democratic." It is "supported by

the people for the people." *En parenthèse*, does he know a Hospital supported by donkeys for donkeys? In short he blesses the Institution from cellar to roof, and pronounces it and its Matron altogether sublime. Verily, "it is a happy Hospital." And then our anonymous democrat turns, denounces, by bell, book and candle, and reveals to a horror-stricken world tidings of wonder and terror. There has been "a dead set made against the Matron," there has been "a dead set" made against the Hospital, by a bold bad "clique" of ex-Sisters, ex-Nurses, ex-Probationers and other ex's. "Their pride has been wounded by the Matron," that is why they are engaged in "dead setting." And then, just when the interest is deepening, this disappointing democrat makes a dead set at silence and lapses into anonymity.

THE next act rises upon a quiet common-sense letter from Mr. Robert Hunter, who I am told holds a high official position under Government. He explains for the benefit of the public that "A Late House Physician" has discovered a full-sized mare's nest. That Miss Yatman was advised and assisted by himself and his wife to bring her indictment against the London Hospital, after she had failed by direct representation to persuade the authorities to investigate the matter. That they knew no clique of ex-anybodies. That he is informed that the "Late House Physician" means the British Nurses' Association, and that he can only say that he had never heard of that body and knew none of its members before the inquiry commenced. So pop goes the big bubble which the "Late House Physician" and his friends have been engaged in blowing. As Mr. Hunter sarcastically observes, the mere fact that such a defence is the only reply which the London Hospital makes to the dreadful charges brought against it, is only another adaptation of the time-honoured maxim, "No case; abuse the plaintiff's attorney." It will certainly cause no small dismay to the Governors of the London Hospital if the authorities attempt to adopt the same line of defence as their self-appointed advocate.

FOR my part, and I know I speak for many Nurses, it appears to me that Miss Yatman deserves the greatest credit for her pluck and determination in coming publicly forward to expose what all behind the scenes have been long aware is a crying scandal, the manner in which Nurses are treated in the London Hospital. It is notorious that the Committee has made the Matron autocratic, and that she can, and does, dismiss or retain at her sole pleasure women who have entered into a binding legal contract on their side, from which they can only escape by a

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