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EDITORIAL.

LONDON HOSPITAL.—VII.

IT is with the greatest regret that we find ourselves compelled to return to the subject of the deplorable condition of the Nursing department at the London Hospital. As our readers probably remember, we lately devoted a consecutive series of six Articles to various points in connection with this matter. We have been upbraided on the one hand because we have ceased for the past three weeks to devote attention to the subject, and on the other hand because we mentioned the matter in these columns at all. It may be well therefore to explain that considerations of justice and right have, in both cases, dictated the course which we have pursued.

We brought the recent revelations concerning the London Hospital before the Nursing profession in particular, and the public in general, because in many ways they point morals of the deepest importance to our readers first, and also to every class in the community. When we had attained our object of arousing public interest, we held our hand until it was known what action the London Hospital authorities proposed to take to clear their own reputations—and that of the great charity with the administration of which they are

entrusted—from the grave charges advanced against them. It is needless to emphasise the complete astonishment with which the public has observed the attitude taken up by the Committee of the London Hospital. We solemnly warn the Committee that the best friends of the Hospital in the Press, and amongst the public, are dismayed at the position which it has assumed; and that unless it reconsiders the matter, and without delay opens a public inquiry into the allegations and admissions made against the Nursing department, the matter will be assuredly taken out of its hands, and infinitely greater damage to the Institution be caused by a widespread public demand being made for the adoption of such an inquisition into the entire management of the London Hospital.

Let us shortly review the present position of affairs. Four or five former Probationers and Nurses and the late Chaplain of the Hospital brought forward before a Select Committee of the House of Lords facts to show that the employées are underfed and overworked; that they are dismissed arbitrarily, and their future professional careers therefore, perhaps, ruined, at the sole and unchecked will of the Matron. Practically that is the sum and substance of the case opened so ably by Miss YATMAN, and supported so strongly and so well by Mrs. ROBERT HUNTER. We have no hesitation in saying that, not only did the Hospital witnesses actually fail to disprove any one of these charges, but that out of their own mouths were elicited statements infinitely more damaging to themselves, and to their superiors, than any made by the plaintiffs. Because it was admitted that women were taken into the Hospital on trial as Probationers for a month, or even longer periods, during which time they were paid nothing for their services, and were not even entered on the Hospital books. We are not

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