

Montagu himself, and next to "In Darkest Africa," reviewed in these columns some time ago, is certainly the "book of the season." We are indebted to Mr. Montagu, whose friendship we have the privilege to enjoy, for the use of the illustration, "A Russian Non-Combatant," which, as it appears in "Camp and Studio," is an artistic piece of work.

NURSING ECHOES.

. SPECIAL NOTICE.—*To those of our friends—in districts not already arranged for, whether at home or abroad—who will agree to send us regularly (reaching the office not later than Monday morning, first post) original notes or items of Nursing news, or matters of importance occurring in their districts, we shall be pleased to send in exchange free copies of the Nursing Record every Thursday, and also the binding case for each volume as it appears.*

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 *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*

THE meeting of the Governors of the London Hospital on the 3rd



inst. was of considerably greater interest than such meetings of the governing body of Hospitals usually are. After the formal business had been transacted, the Chairman moved the adoption of the report of the proceedings of the House Committee, including a resolution which had been passed by that body, "That the House Committee desire to express their entire and unabated confidence in the Matron and their sympathy with her in the trouble and anxiety to which she has been subjected owing to the attack recently made upon her." The Chairman considered that the charges against the Hospital had been fully answered, and that the management of the Hospital had been most thoroughly and entirely justified. But as he practically admitted that the Committee had themselves made no inquiry into the serious charges advanced, but had been contented with the Matron's version of them, his opinion can only be a personal one, and will hardly be accepted as conclusive by the public. I should add that I am indebted to the *East London Observer* for the following account of the proceedings.

THEN MRS. HUNTER, whose generous and powerful advocacy of the Nurses' rights has won for her such general admiration, moved an amendment, which

every one must wonder at the Governors not accepting unanimously, because it only suggested that the Governors should not be asked to pledge themselves in the matter, as the Committee had done, until they had heard both sides of the question. She proposed—"That the adoption of the resolution read shall not be deemed to pledge the meeting to any expression of opinion with respect to the questions recently raised before the Select Committee of the House of Lords." She asked for the indulgence of the meeting owing to her never having spoken in public before, and assured them that she would not have spoken that day but for her very strong feeling as to the importance of the issue raised by that resolution. She argued that, to say the least of it, it was premature for the House Committee to seek the sanction of the Governors to the resolution which had been read to them, at the present time, seeing that many of the more influential supporters of the Hospital were away, and also that the Blue Book, containing the evidence given before the Select Committee, had not yet been printed; consequently they had not been given the opportunity of calmly considering the charges which had been made against the Nursing Staff of that Institution. She regretted that the evidence given before the Lords' Committee had led to so much personal feeling and to the imputation of motives which were utterly false. As one who had taken an active part—perhaps the most active part—in bringing that evidence before the Committee, she assured them that she had not desired to injure that great and beneficent institution. Nothing was further from her mind, because there was no one more ready than she to acknowledge the great good which had been done by the London Hospital. At the same time they must remember that no Institution was perfect, and in that connection she thought that the Chairman had greatly exaggerated what was likely to occur to the Hospital from the charges made, seeing that these charges referred to the Nursing management. The Chairman had also in his speech suggested that the charges which had been made had been refuted by the Hospital authorities themselves. So far from that being the case, Dr. Fenwick had stated that the Nurses of the London Hospital were too hard worked, that there ought to be more Nurses, that they were too long on their feet, resulting in considerable physical injury, and that they did not have sufficient holidays. No gentleman present, she was sure, would think it right for a Nurse to work—as a Nurse at that Institution had to work—for thirteen hours at a stretch on nothing more nourishing than tinned sardines, pickled mackerel, and bread, butter, and tea; or that the Night

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)