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No. 121.

THURSDAY, JULY 24th, 1890.

VOL. 5.

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EDITORIAL.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL.—III.

THE defence of the London Hospital, so far as the Committee of the House of Lords is concerned, has, we understand, now been concluded, and the “case” is therefore before the public. As our readers will have observed, the public conscience is deeply stirred by the revelations which have been made during the last fortnight.

Turning to a survey of the evidence given during the past week, it may be briefly summarised. On Thursday, Mr. Valentine was recalled, and stated that the evidence placed before the Committee in reference to himself by the late Chairman and the present Secretary was inaccurate, in proof of which he demanded that the minute book of the House Committee of the London Hospital should be produced. This was done, and then, to the astonishment of everyone, Lord Sandhurst found himself unable to decipher the entries in the minute book, and finally observed that “it was in such a mess that nothing could be made out of it.” The Secretary was called for-

ward, and was obliged to confess that he had only given their lordships in his previous evidence *part* of the minutes relating to Mr. Valentine. Letters said to be “annexed” were found to be missing, the lame excuse being advanced that they had been removed to be copied, as if they could not have been as easily copied while in the minute book as outside it.

Other witnesses followed, who denied that there were any grounds for any complaints, and asserted that the Nurses' food was good, that the Nurses were never worked when ill, and that it was quite justifiable to send out semi-trained women as Private Nurses when the public applied for “thoroughly trained Nurses.” It was, however, elicited from one of the witnesses that, although she had sworn that the food supplied to the Nurses was very good, the eggs were often bad, and other articles of diet were often complained about. And a string of letters were handed in, as having been received from past and present Nurses and others acquainted with the London Hospital and its Matron, and all eulogising this lady in unmeasured terms. Then one of the Physicians and one of the Surgeons to the Hospital were called, and combined in declaring that everything was as nearly faultless at the London Hospital as anything could be in this sublunary sphere. Their evidence, however, had one drawback, in that they did not agree amongst themselves; one declaring that he always examined every Probationer carefully, and only selected the strongest for the work; the other announcing that the medical examination was perfunctorily performed, and that the reason why so many Nurses were knocked up was because many weakly women were admitted. Both however—as, indeed, all the witnesses brought forward for the Hospital—admitted that the Nurses were overworked, but declared that this was inevitable.

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