

At Monday's sitting, some new and very important evidence was adduced in support of the charges against the Hospital. But the case is now before the public, and by that final court of appeal it must be decided. There can be no dispute that the admissions obtained from the representatives of the London Hospital have done more to damage that great institution than the fact that a few ex-Nurses have made complaints against its management, could possibly have done. The matter has assumed a far more serious aspect than could have been predicted three weeks ago. There is clearly only one course now open. The Governors of the London Hospital must be summoned to meet with the least possible delay, and from their number they must choose men who not only have at heart the interests of the Hospital, but thoroughly understand the whole question, to form a court of inquiry, and there should be on this body not only medical men and business men, but at least one *legal* authority.

Our contemporaries throughout the country, who have yet to express their views, are unanimous with us in demanding an immediate investigation. It must, moreover, be open and complete, for no half measures will satisfy the public conscience. And then the report of this Court must be as widely circulated as the charges, for these must either be distinctly and decisively confuted, or measures must instantly be taken to prevent the possibility of such allegations ever being justified again.

Let us, then, briefly sum up the case as it stands at present. Firstly, it is alleged that the Nurses are overworked. This is practically agreed to, seeing that the Matron, the Committee, and the Doctors have admitted that if the Hospital had more funds it would engage more workers; seeing that numbers of three months' Probationers are continually floating through the Wards, doing little or no good, and giving less help; and seeing that women are actually engaged for twelve or even fourteen hours a day at the most depressing and onerous work possible. Secondly, it is said that the Nurses are unjustly treated. It is admitted that the Matron may discharge them at her own unfettered will, and so practically close their professional career, for no Institution would, as a general rule, admit as a Probationer one who had been discharged as unfit by another Hospital; and that should any Probationer have the courage to appeal to the House Committee it would be absolutely useless, for the Matron's word would be taken as a matter of course. This has been sworn to, or we would have refused to believe that any body of English gentlemen could have permitted the first principles of justice and right to be broken, and especially in a case where defenceless

women are concerned. Thirdly, it is stated that the Nurses are underfed. There is a complete conflict of evidence upon this point, so that this must, so far as we are concerned, remain in abeyance. Fourthly comes the serious charge that this great charitable Institution has been deluding the public by sending out semi-trained Probationers instead of the "thoroughly Trained Nurses" it promises to supply; but that it, nevertheless, extracts from the sick exactly the market price for which a first-class Trained Nurse can be obtained elsewhere. This is admitted, and the facts are so notorious that they cannot, of course, be disputed. But the excuse is advanced that the Matron considers Nurses trained at the end of twelve months, although the Hospital, it cannot be denied, refuses to recognise them as "thoroughly trained" until the end of their second year.

Such are the serious charges advanced, and the still more serious position in which the London Hospital stands at this moment. We earnestly advise its governing body to inquire into the matter with the least possible delay, to confute what charges they can, and permanently remedy whatever they cannot refute. Then they can come before the public with clean hands, plead the greatness of the work they do, and claim for their necessities the amplest help. Anyhow, for the sake of the sick poor and all concerned, we earnestly wish the London Hospital a speedy deliverance.

OBSTETRIC NURSING.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.B.N.A. —

PART I.—MATERNAL.

CHAPTER VII.—THE LOCHIAL PERIOD (DUTIES DURING).

(Continued from page 28.)

WHAT are the next symptoms we may expect? Pain, inflammation, fever. And here I must digress to say a word or two about that pathological condition we call inflammation, and remind you that its dangers are intensified when the uterus is its seat during that changeful and critical period called the puerperal state. Hence I wish you to understand the object of the measures that have to be taken—to earnestly impress upon your minds the immense importance of prompt and intelligent action on the part of an Obstetric Nurse, without which medical skill may be nullified or seriously impeded.

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