

nutshell. "The long and short of it is, is it not, that if a Nurse offends the Matron the sooner she goes the better?" To which pertinent query the witness declared himself unable to reply.

THEN Mr. Carr-Gomm stated that the Committee had such confidence in the Matron that they had invested her with autocratic power over the Nurses and Probationers, and could not see—what several noble lords pointed out—that this left the door open to all sorts of tyranny and injustice if the Matron so desired to act. Finally, he admitted that the Committee gave the Nurses a power of appeal to themselves from the Matron's decision in order to prevent the Nurses thinking that they were utterly in the Matron's power; but that, as a matter of fact, if any one did appeal, the Committee would simply take the Matron's version as conclusive. No wonder that one of their lordships asked if such a right of appeal was not intended to mislead.

DR. SAMUEL FENWICK and Mr. Treves, a Physician and a Surgeon to the London Hospital, were next examined, and strongly supported the Matron. Everything at the London Hospital, in their opinion, is now as nearly perfect as it could possibly be. They both approved of Nurses being sent out for private nursing when they had only been in the Hospital a year, or less. The former characterised the charges brought forward as "all nonsense," of which our contemporary, the *Globe*, has already made fun. For example, to say that because he had charge of certain Wards in 1879, the Nurses in 1885 could not have moved extra beds out before Sir Andrew Clark's visits is "all nonsense," especially when the fact is clearly proved that the beds were so moved out because Sir Andrew was known to object to overcrowding of his Wards.

ON this matter one point certainly should receive further explanation. When the Matron was first questioned, she stated that Miss Homersham must be wrong as to this deception on the visiting staff, because "Dr. Wethered, who was Sir Andrew Clark's House Physician at the time" Miss Homersham was there, would come forward and state that it was untrue. When Dr. Wethered, however, appeared, it was elicited that he did not become House Physician until a year or so after Miss Homersham left. It is rumoured that the Nurse who was working with Miss Homersham has come forward to corroborate her statement, and that the Sister from whom she must have received her orders, is still working at the London Hospital. If this be so, it is "all nonsense" to bring forward two gentlemen who

could know nothing about the matter, to contradict the fact that the Doctors were systematically deluded. And it is something beyond "all nonsense" not to have brought forward the one witness who could have spoken from her own knowledge.

BUT there are stranger stories floating about. As soon as the inquiry began, a portentously long document was handed in purporting to be an address of condolence from the whole of the Nursing Staff with the Matron. It is now openly stated that only about one hundred and sixty names out of the two hundred and forty Nurses appeared on this roll; and, furthermore, that the document has been hurriedly withdrawn because irregularities have been discovered in its production. The public will wish to know the truth of this matter, and what action the House Committee of the London Hospital propose to take. The rumours are of far too grave a character to be ignored, and any attempt to do so will bring irreparable harm to the Institution.

THE papers already contain letters on the inquiry, and now that the case of the London Hospital is closed there will probably be quite a shower of them. A gentleman who is notorious for rushing in where angels fear to tread has already propounded *his* views on the matter. He has probably damaged the case he has invited himself to defend, for he instructs the Lords' Committee how it is to treat somebody or something, and how it is to act on this "supposition," and what it must do in that "belief." The only fact emerging from his nebulous language is that he considers the London Hospital perfect because he made an inspection of it "two years ago."

THE Press generally is not a little agitated just now concerning Nursing matters. There is some very startling correspondence going on in the columns of the *Globe*, full of what the police case reporters would call "interesting revelations." The following is the latter portion of a letter signed "Ex-Matron," and is decidedly worth perusal.

"IN my own Hospital I did all I could to give my Nurses out-of-door enjoyments, and found they came in to their work all the brighter and fitter for it, with fresh ideas to talk about, instead of the weary grumbling too often heard in a London Hospital Ward, where the Nurses' lives become so monotonous after the glamour of the training period is over. And when tickets for concerts or good plays at the theatre were sent, how delighted we all were, and how thoroughly the entertainment was appreciated.

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