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EDITORIAL.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL.—V.

WE have reason to believe that neither the House Committee of the London Hospital, nor the public at large, are aware of the manner in which the health of Nurses is cared for in that Institution. Let us narrate the details of a story which can neither be denied, nor in the smallest particular refuted.

Probationer Pairman was a hardy, strongly-built, and healthy Scotchwoman. She was acting on night duty, when one Saturday she was sent down to the out-patient room to see the Aural Surgeon for a little nasal trouble from which she was suffering. She was found to have a small growth in the nostril, which the Surgeon then and there removed. Having had her day's rest thus broken, she was allowed to remain in bed through Saturday night and Sunday, but suffered discomfort and swelling from the operation, and obtained but little sleep. On Sunday evening, when the Night Sister came on duty, she was startled to find amongst the arrangements for the night that

Probationer Pairman was ordered for duty in the Erysipelas Wards. Feeling quite confident that the mistake was accidental, the Night Sister went to the Assistant Matron and pointed out that the Probationer had an open wound in her nose, so that of course it could not be intended that she should be exposed to the danger of such infection. It must be here remembered that being Sunday the Matron was away from the Hospital, an astonished public having recently learnt that the Committee do not consider that the Matron has any duties to perform for two days during each week. The reply of the assistant was emphatic. She said *she* saw no risk. The Night Sister washed her hands of the responsibility, and Probationer Pairman went on duty in the Erysipelas Wards.

These, we understand, are divided into two separate parts: one, in the Grocer's Wing, devoted to male patients; the other in a low adjoining building, where female cases are placed. Both are entirely isolated from the rest of the Hospital. On this night there was a young Probationer in sole charge of the female side. Shortly after midnight she went into the Male Wards, and there found Probationer Pairman, who was in sole charge there, engaged in wrestling with a man who had become violently delirious, and was attempting to escape from the Ward, and was rapidly overpowering Miss Pairman in his efforts to do so, when the new-comer joined in the struggle to restrain him. It is unnecessary to point out the extra danger of such close contact with a case of erysipelas to anyone with an open wound. The Sister was ill in bed in her room. The remaining men in the Ward, all dangerously ill, could only gaze in mingled fear and wonder at the delirious man struggling with these two women. Finally, he was forced back into bed and tied down; but, meanwhile, a very bad

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