

case, whether from excitement or disease, suddenly died. None of our readers need be told in what kind of work the remainder of the night was spent.

Probationer Pairman went off duty at the usual time, but in the afternoon a House Physician was summoned to see her, found her temperature very high, and insisted upon her being warded at once. It is needless to say that then everything that could be done was done. The Visiting Physician saw her frequently; he called in a colleague, famous for his knowledge of brain diseases, to see her. She received all that Medical skill and kindness could do, and her co-workers tended her with unceasing devotion. But it was all too late then. It was one of the many cases in which prevention, not cure, was neglected. She lay unconscious for some few days, always making one piteous moan, which is too painful to repeat. And so she died, and one more name was added to the long death roll of Nurses.

Only one further incident need be noted. Naturally the Doctors were anxious to make certain whether death had been caused by blood-poisoning or erysipelalous inflammation, or whether this young healthy woman had been attacked by brain disease, without any relation to the infection to which she had been exposed. The friends of Miss Pairman consented to a post-mortem examination, and it was just about to be performed when an official interposed, and declared that it should not be made. And it was not made.

Now the public will wish to know from the London Hospital Committee, whom the Governors hold responsible for the due care and consideration of those who enter the service of the Institution, several matters in relation to this drama? Was the Committee informed of the facts of this case? If not, does the Committee permit its officials to keep such facts as these from its knowledge? Because, although it may only now appear in print, let the Committee of the London Hospital know that the story has been told in private a hundred times before, and that a hundred times the auditors have expressed the verdict which a British jury would have expressed had there been an inquest upon poor Probationer Pairman. But now that the matter has been publicly brought forward, what will the Committee of the London Hospital do? Will it fold its hands and shrug its shoulders and do nothing? We cannot for one moment believe it. We cannot doubt that the House Committee of the London Hospital will immediately open a public inquiry into the whole conduct of its Nursing department, and amongst other reforms

take every precaution that such fatal results of gross neglect and ignorance shall never occur again within the walls of that Institution.

Let us give the Committee one word of warning. If the Committee wishes to know any of the truth, it must, in the first place, pledge itself that those who come forward shall be protected by the Committee not only from summary dismissal, but also from insult and brow-beating. Let the Committee question the permanent officials of the Hospital, and try to elicit from them some of the many facts as to the management of the Nursing Department, which have been common talk far and wide for years past. Let the Committee trace some of the many Probationers who have been turned out of the Institution, ascertain from them why they were discharged, and why they never appealed to the Committee; and ascertain from its own Minute Book—if it is not "in such a mess that nothing can be made out of it"—whether the discharges of these Probationers were duly reported or not; and, if so, whether Mr. Carr-Gomm is correct in stating that no Probationer has ever left the Hospital before her dismissal was known to the Committee.

There will, unfortunately, be found abundance of material for inquiry. The public is watching anxiously to see what the Committee proposes to do. Surely the Committee is aware that no half measures will be accepted, and that any feeble attempt to decline an inquiry will be taken as a proof that the whole truth has not yet been told, and that publicity is dreaded. There is, moreover, good reason to believe that unless the Committee rapidly commences an exhaustive and open inquiry, the public will take the matter out of its hands, and demand a Government investigation.

## OBSTETRIC NURSING.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.B.N.A. —

### PART I.—MATERNAL.

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

(Continued from page 52.)

**W**E will now, in the briefest manner, touch upon respiration.

Respiration consists of two processes, chemical and mechanical; and this last comprises two acts—*inspiration*, or the drawing in of air to the lung cells; and *expiration*, the expelling of air from the lung cells. It is with mechanical respiration that a Nurse has most to do, and she must

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