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EDITORIAL.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL.—IV.

HAS the House Committee of the London Hospital the slightest idea of the manner in which the Nursing Department of that great Institution has been, and is being, conducted? Such is the question which is now being asked upon all sides. It is almost impossible to believe that any body of honourable men can have been aware of facts recently made public. And yet the Committee has, as trustees for the public, as guardians of the sick poor, undertaken the immense responsibility of the management of the greatest charity in this country. It is to the Committee that the public look for the right conduct of the Institution. It is on their good faith, their sense of justice, their honour that those who have entered their service have relied. Can it be true, as is openly stated, that they have delegated their entire authority to their own officials, and that they are practically puppets, so far as any real control over the management of their Institution is concerned. We take leave to doubt one thing. If this has

been the case in the past, no body of English gentlemen will allow it to continue once their understanding has been enlightened. It has been a source of unspeakable relief to many to learn that the Committee of the London Hospital has been kept in total, dense, Egyptian darkness as to deeds performed on its authority, and under its very eyes.

To take only two instances out of many which will probably be found hereafter to fall into the same category.

Miss Raymond was a Probationer of twelve months standing at the London Hospital. One of the Sisters—a person described as one of the minor stars or satellites of that institution—came to the conclusion that she was unsuitable for a Nurse. In accordance with the custom prevailing at the London Hospital, Miss Raymond was sent for by the Matron and told to leave the Hospital, as she was quite "incompetent." Miss Raymond ventured on a mild but useless request for particulars, and then meekly departed to pack up her belongings. She was fortunate enough, however, at this crisis to possess as a fellow-Probationer a lady who must be a phenomenon, because her courage had not been quelled, nor her sense of justice annihilated. She absolutely succeeded in persuading Miss Raymond to write to one of her few friends stating the case. This gentleman, a clergyman, took up the matter and wrote to the Matron. The Matron replied that "Miss Raymond was quite unfit to become a Nurse." The Rev. Mr. Davies wrote again and "received a rude reply." Mr. Davies thereupon stated that he would bring the matter before the Committee, whereupon the Matron indited another epistle, which we understand was not "rude." And Miss Raymond unpacked her boxes, remained as a Probationer for another year, and received the Hospital

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