

431, Oxford Street, London, W.  
August 28th, 1913.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 20th inst., in which you state that my communication of July 24th will be placed before the House Committee of the London Hospital on October 3rd.

I am under no misapprehension concerning this extraordinary delay. My letter arrived before the last meeting of the House Committee, to whom it was addressed. Thus, in my opinion, as the Secretary, Mr. E. W. Morris, did not present it he withheld it.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,  
MARGARET BREAY, *Hon. Sec.*

London Hospital, Whitechapel, E.  
October 9th, 1913.

MADAM,—Your letter received on July 28th was read at the meeting of the House Committee on Monday last, and also the Resolution passed by your Society on July 18th. The whole correspondence which passed between your Society and the Assistant Secretary was also placed before the Committee.

I am to say that the Committee have nothing to add to my letter of July 30th, with which they entirely agree.

With regard to the delay in bringing the letter of your Society before the Committee, I am to say that the Committee does not consider matters other than those on the Agenda Paper unless of extreme urgency, an exception which does not apply in this case.

Yours very truly,  
E. W. MORRIS, *Sec.*

431, Oxford Street, London, W.  
October 11th, 1913.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 9th inst., and to say that I will bring it before my Committee, with all the correspondence to which it refers, at their next meeting.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
MARGARET BREAY, *Hon. Sec.*

431, Oxford Street, London, W.  
October 31st, 1913.

To the House Committee of the London Hospital.

GENTLEMEN,—The whole correspondence which has passed between myself and the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the London Hospital, in reference to a Resolution adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses on July 18th, was placed before the Executive Committee at its Meeting on October 23rd; and I was directed to communicate to you its grave dissatisfaction at the unbusinesslike, and quite indefensible, methods with which this correspondence has been treated by your Secretary. In this connection, permit me to remind you that the Resolution was apparently never placed before the House Committee of the

London Hospital until October 6th, although in a letter from your Secretary, dated July 30th, he distinctly implies that his personal expression of opinion was authorised by the House Committee, as he says that our contention that it is economically unsound that it should send out nurses to private cases, for gain, at the end of only two years' training, to "compete with nurses holding certificates of three or more years' consecutive training in hospital wards," "appears to the Committee a ridiculous position, and they do not know what you mean by stating that it is economically unsound"; and he adds, "I am to say that your Resolution shows lamentable ignorance of the reputation and success of London Hospital Nurses."

In the letter from your Secretary, dated October 9th, we are informed, "Your letter received on July 28th was read at the Meeting of the House Committee on Monday last (October 6th), and also the Resolution passed by your Society on July 18th. . . . I am to say that the Committee have nothing to add to my letter of July 30th, with which they entirely agree."

My Committee desire to protest against an official of your institution dealing with public matters in this ambiguous manner; and for him to state that our opinion appears to the House Committee "ridiculous," when our resolution had never been before it, places the House Committee of the London Hospital in an exceedingly undignified and untenable position.

Moreover, my Committee desire to re-affirm the Resolution which was passed at the Annual Meeting of this Society, both in justice to the nursing profession at large, and also to the nurses of the London Hospital; and to add that in its opinion it is the public duty of the Governing Body of the London Hospital to publish, in the annual report, an audited balance-sheet of the receipts and expenditure of the Private Nursing Business carried on by it in connection with an institution supported by public charity.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET BREAY, *Hon. Sec.*

We cannot congratulate the House Committee of the London Hospital either on the celerity or courtesy with which it conducts its business, nor on the latitude it accords its Secretary in taking its name in vain! Upwards of £20,000 a year is presumably earned by the Private Nursing Staff, the detailed account of the expenditure of which is conspicuous by its absence in the copy of the Hospital's published balance sheets before us. That so small a portion of this huge sum, according to the salaries paid to them, should be handed over to the women who have earned it is, in our opinion, not only "economically unsound," but scandalously inadequate, and especially is this so at an institution where the salaries and emoluments of the higher officials are calculated upon so munificent a scale!

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)