

Hospitals have recognised the advisability of appointing such a court of appeal and jurisdiction, and it is expected that more than one leading Metropolitan Hospital will within the next few weeks follow the wise example already set by St. Thomas's, St. George's, Westminster, and the Middlesex.

The appalling sickness and death-rate among the Nurses continues apparently unabated, for we are informed that yet another employée of the Hospital has died during the last quarter—the thirteenth in three years, according to Mrs. HUNTER. How the Committee can persist in closing its eyes to the awful significance of this fact, or, if it has realised the significance, how it can persist in denying the crying need for investigation, passes our comprehension.

Reform is apparently still in the air, and unless public opinion is roused seems likely to remain in that position. The three weeks' holiday, vaguely hinted at in December, has not yet been granted at the London Hospital, although nearly every other great Institution has now accorded that, or even a longer term, to its workers. The number of Ward-maids, which it was expected in December would be increased, remains unaltered. After this it is almost unnecessary to add that no shame, no contrition, is expressed at the continued deception practised upon the public by sending out semi-trained Probationers, when it is advertised that thoroughly trained Nurses are supplied, and when the Committee is perfectly aware that the public applies, and believes that it is paying, for skilled workers, and not semi-ignorant pupils. Unless we are much misinformed, there must have been a very considerable falling off in the numbers of applications for Private Nurses, and, therefore, in the receipts under this head, during the latter half of 1890. And when the public becomes more awakened to the manner in which the London Hospital seeks to make money out of its necessity, the amount of this unrighteous gain will doubtless be still further diminished. The desperate shifts to which the Committee is reduced in order to palliate its conduct is well exemplified by the excuse which someone seems to have made, at the recent meeting, for Probationers being sent out from the wards to act as Private Nurses. This, it was stated, was not in order to make money for the Hospital—perish the evil thought—but merely because these poor young women needed change of air! And therefore the Matron, with that all-absorbing consideration for their welfare which is her chief

Loeflund's "L" Malt Extract—prepared as "Pure Hordeum" (q. v.), but with less diastasic strength. 1s. 6d. Also with Cod Liver Oil, exceedingly palatable, greatly enhances the value of the oil, and may be taken under any circumstances. Recommended to all who would gain flesh. 2s. R. Baelz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

characteristic, sent them out to nurse people in the country. The idea is beautiful—the Private Nurse recuperating from the shattering effects of a few months in the London Hospital; reading a novel under an umbrella on the sea shore; dreamily dozing in a garden of roses; or, properly escorted, wandering down the country lanes; anywhere, everywhere of course, except day and night in fixed attendance on a case of dangerous illness. As the Committee is clearly absolutely callous as to the welfare of the richer classes, it never occurred to the intelligent gentleman who propounded this excuse that the sick public who pays for the Nurse has some little claim to consideration. But now the public knows, on the authority of a member of the Committee, that when a London Hospital Nurse is sent for from a country house, a delicate Probationer, who needs change of air, will be supplied in order that she may recover her health, at the expense of the patient.

At any rate this is better than sending out a Nurse suffering from diphtheria to patient after patient until she collapses and dies, as was done, for example, in Nurse Sabel's case.

OBSTETRIC NURSING.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.R.B.N.A. —

PART I.—MATERNAL.

CHAPTER IX.—LESIONS.

VESICO OR RECTO VAGINAL FISTULA.

(Continued from page 112.)

At their completion, this Course of Lectures will be published as one of the Series of "Nursing Record Text Books and Manuals."

BEFORE quitting the subject of lesions, I will bring before the notice of my readers two or three troubles of childbirth that, primarily due to pregnancy, reach to serious developments during or soon after labour, and in all cases retard convalescence. These are hæmatocele, varicose veins, and hæmorrhoids, and all these concomitant risks of pregnancy are enhanced by the upright position of the woman, as I pointed out to you in a previous paper.

Hæmatocele.—These blood swellings are caused by the pressure of the foetal head upon the pelvic blood vessels during the second stage of labour, leading to intense venous congestion, and an extravasation of blood into some portion of the

Loeflund's Mustard Leaves (prepared specially for Sinapisms) from the finest seed only. The most efficacious and reliable form of mustard-plaster. Clean, quick, portable. Tins of 10, 1s. 6d. Special quotations for larger sizes, containing 50, 100, and 200 leaves each. R. Baelz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)