

by the authorities of St. Bartholomew's and that adopted by those of the London Hospital is very significant. Our readers know how the latter instantly pretended that they were being attacked in order that the Hospital might be damaged! how they refused to inquire, and howled down those Governors who demanded reforms. To the everlasting credit of St. Bartholomew's, the statements made by one organ in the Press were instantly met and inquired into. A formal notice was issued to the press, showing that "the ward where the Nurses slept had never been used for cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever, although it was in the same block of buildings as that in which the diphtheria patients were placed. It was prepared for their use many months ago, by special cleansing and painting, under the supervision of the Hospital architect, before the Nurses were placed there. It has been discontinued as a sleeping place for the Nurses during the past eight weeks, and can therefore have but little to do with any case of diphtheria which has occurred within that time." It is further stated that twenty-six Nurses and Ward-maids suffered from diphtheria, all of whom completely recovered, and four Nurses had typhoid, of whom one died, during the course of the year 1890. This compares very happily with the five deaths amongst the Nurses of the London Hospital during the same twelve months—a fact to which we invite Mr. LABOUCHERE'S keenest attention. It is openly said, indeed, in professional circles that our contemporary's attention has been drawn to this matter at St. Bartholomew's in order that the traditional red-herring might be drawn across the public scent of the scandals at the London Hospital, and we greatly doubt our contemporary appreciating the use to which it has been attempted to be placed.

But the marked distinction between the medical staff of the London Hospital and the honourable gentlemen who compose the staffs of other Institutions has been vividly displayed in this instance. It will be remembered that the former, without a vestige of inquiry, and even without knowing the exact facts of the charges, met in conclave and unanimously pronounced that all things Nursing at the London Hospital were wonderfully good. The Staff at St. Bartholomew's, we learn, has immediately taken a widely different course, and demanded a searching inquiry into the whole matter; and the Committee being also honourable gentlemen, we make no doubt that the fullest investigation will be made, and any defects in the sanitary arrangements of the Hospital promptly remedied. Indeed we learn that for weeks past workmen have been preparing the Treasurer's own house to be used as extra bed-rooms for the Nurses, and that a great increase in the number

of Night Nurses was made some three months ago; all this, be it noted, long before public attention was drawn to the subject.

It is quite useless to commend this example to the Committee of the London Hospital, for that body has conclusively proved its entire inability to understand or appreciate such conduct. But we have no hesitation in saying that most Committees and Medical Staffs would, under similar circumstances, pursue precisely the same course as that which has been taken at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

This question of sanitary details, however, reminds us that we have not yet drawn attention to the scandalous state of affairs at the London Hospital in this respect. We do not intend to say much as to the utterly bad condition of the drains; because months ago we referred to that subject, and the Committee have at last so realised the evils of sewer gas continually pervading the wards as to sanction a very large expenditure, in order to make the Hospital less of a death-trap for its Nurses and its patients. But we refer to facts beyond dispute, and of daily occurrence, which prove the complete chaos and inefficiency of the Nursing department at present. We are told by eye-witnesses, and former Nurses corroborate the sickening details, that it is actually the custom at the largest Hospital in England, in this last decade of the nineteenth century, for filthy dirty mackintoshes, covered with blood and pus, to be placed in the patients' baths until the Nurses have time to wash them; and that then this cleansing process takes place in the self-same bath. East-enders are said to be constitutionally averse to bathing. There is verily much excuse when the greatest English Hospital gives them such examples of the use of a bath. The rounders, it seems, filled with dirty dressings, poultices, &c., to overflowing, are also kept in the bath-room, and there maintain a continual stench, as they are only emptied once in twenty-four hours. Then we enter the ward, and find the patients' lockers filled with their dirty clothes and boots, all mixed in filthy confusion with their bread, butter, tea, sugar, and other comestibles. And—crowning effort of Nursing skill; crowning proof of the advances of medical science as applied to the treatment of the sick poor; crowning justification of the complete and unabated confidence of the Medical Staff in the Nursing arrangements of their Hospital; behold a large, open-mouthed milk jug. Filled once a day, unless the patient is on an extra allowance, allowed to stand twenty-four hours at a time, to keep sweet or turn sour, to be drunk or left untasted, there the milk stands on each patient's locker. In wards where typhoid and

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