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IMPORTANT NOTICE.—*Those of our subscribers who wish to notify change of address must send such notification in order that it may reach the publishers NOT LATER than the Monday morning before publishing, otherwise the change cannot be made.*

EDITORIAL.

CONTINUING the commentary, which we commenced to make last week, upon the evidence given by Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT, before the Select Committee of the House of Lords, we find that we must first explain, at greater length, a conclusion at which we then arrived. It appeared to us that the absolutely erroneous and seriously misleading statements made by Mr. BURDETT with regard to King's College Hospital could only have been the outcome of extreme ignorance of the subject on his part. Because, inasmuch as it was sworn evidence we are compelled to believe that Mr. BURDETT must have been unaware that his statements were entirely inaccurate. He included, as the Rev. Mr. BROMLEY showed, in the ordinary expenditure of King's College Hospital, the sum of £9,000 which had been spent—in one of his three selected years—in

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raising the Hospital by a new floor. Mr. BURDETT clearly must imagine that King's College Hospital ascends towards heaven at the rate of a fresh storey every three years, or he would surely not have reckoned this expenditure in arriving at an average of the annual cost per bed at this Institution. We presume that, by this time, it has been borne in upon his mind that this is not an ordinary method of increasing the available accommodation of such Institutions.

After this, however, we feel that more leniency must be shown to Mr. BURDETT's statements upon medical matters than we have hitherto bestowed upon them, and, in a lighter vein, must his views as to the diet of the Nurses at King's College and the London Hospital be considered. As we quoted, last week, he asserted that at the former Hospital the "cost per bed occupied for provisions is £26 17s. 8d."; at the latter it was only "£17 1s. 7d.": "a difference," he kindly informed their lordships, "of £10"—an arithmetical fact which must have appeared to them to be novel, if not, perhaps, strictly in accordance with their own knowledge of figures. The Rev. Mr. BROMLEY stated, however, that the average at King's College was "£16 12s. 9d., and not £26 17s. 8d.," and he could "only account for Mr. BURDETT saying that it is £26 by the fact that he may have added on the board of the Nurses; but he has not done so with regard to the London Hospital." There is a cruel irony visible in these words. Of course they demolished Mr. BURDETT's figures, but what do they show besides? We venture to suggest an explanation, which is both simple and satisfactory. We have

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