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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31st, 1891.

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### EDITORIAL.

THE LORDS' SELECT COMMITTEE.-II.

HE evidence which was given before the Select Committee, with reference to St. Thomas's Hospital, related chiefly to the general management of the business of that Institution, and comparatively little was said concerning the Nursing Department. This evidence illustrates an important point to which we have already more than once alluded—the great difficulty under which the Committee has laboured, in its efforts to discover the real state of affairs, in consequence of its lack of professional assistance. There can be little doubt that if one or two medical men and Nurses had been associated with these noble lords in their inquiry, a great deal of information would have been elicited as to the internal arrangements of St. Thomas's Hospital, which would have considerably astonished the Committee.

With regard to the business details, with which, of course, they were quite au fait, the Committee discovered sufficient to afford them considerable surprise. Although various officials admitted that no less than one hundred and fifty free beds were closed for want of funds and that numbers of the sick poor were turned away from the Hospital for want of this accommodation, yet no effort has been made to acquaint the public with this fact, or to take the obvious course of appealing for further funds. It will come as a great shock to the whole English nation to learn that the authorities of one of the best-known,

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