

offered, without any expense to the Charity, to modernise and make alterations conducive to the ordinary comfort of the inmates; at the same time I made some remarks on the expenditure of the Hospital, taking my figures from Mr. Burdett's *Hospital Annual*, showing the waste and mismanagement which existed and the want of consideration shown to the out-patients. My offers, made anonymously through one of the Members of the Board, were neither accepted nor recognised, and the statements in which I pointed out that, by mismanagement, the cost per occupied bed exceeded that of any other Provincial Hospital of the same size by about £20—or, say, an annual expenditure of £2,500 over that of twelve Hospitals of the same capacity—were totally ignored by the Committee of Management. I published a letter, in the form of a pamphlet, and forwarded a copy to Mr. Burdett, who at once sallied forth as a champion of the Sussex County Hospital's management in two very strongly-worded articles in his weekly journal, *The Hospital*, denouncing me as 'a skulking accuser' and a 'modern Dick Turpin,' with other elegant epithets. The latter article was published in the issue of the 19th of April, 1890. At the same time he whitewashed the conduct of the management of the S.C. Hospital, and published their reply in the same number as the 'skulking accuser' article appeared. It is needless to say that the charges brought by me (given Mr. Burdett's figures were correct) were unanswered and unanswerable. I enclose copies of the whole correspondence. My offence, you will notice, was that of writing under the pseudonym of 'Governor,' but if Mr. Burdett uses the editorial 'we,' I am at a loss to conceive why I should not adopt the same style."

THE following remarks concerning Hospital Committees and their work which were made in a clever leading article in the same issue of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, merit the earnest attention of all Nurses: "Above all, let them awake to the fact that the demand for better conditions of work, for a healthy amount of rest and leisure, has spread to Hospital Nursing from other ill-paid and exacting vocations. It is part of a large and growing movement; it is not to be suppressed by mean endeavours to play upon the better feelings of an energetic and devoted class of women. Nobody who has not watched the history of 'Hospital Scandals' with some closeness can fully estimate the pressure of this sort which is

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brought to bear on Nurses to prevent them helping themselves. They are fair game. A Nurse's professional career depends almost to the last moment on the caprice of her superiors. Poor as is the pay, there are plenty—as in all classes of women's work—to take her place."

"EVEN in the case of the Glasgow Infirmary, as also in that of the Eastern Fever Hospital, nearer home, until the press and the public had shown that the thing was not to be burked, the denials of fact were as absolute, the refusals of reform were as arrogant, the whole attitude of know-nothing and do-nothing was as sublime as those which we have seen at the London Hospital and elsewhere. Mr. Burdett, the gentleman who lately addressed us on this subject, and whose paper *The Hospital* affects apparently to interpret the authorities to the public, filled its columns with sneers and reproaches against the victorious Nurses. They were traitors, querulous ingrates—creatures whose 'thoughts were all for self.' They were reminded that their proper character was 'ministering angels'—not women with duties to themselves and each other and a livelihood to earn."

"MR. BURDETT is the Uncle Pumblechook of the Nursing world. He always writes as if he had brought the Nurses up by hand, and was pained at their want of proper feeling. But, sickening as is such canting twaddle as we have quoted, it is just the sort of thing which we have heard from Hospital authorities whenever they have been fairly 'cornered.' There must be a change, then, in the attitude towards the Nurses as well as towards the public."

"WHAT is needed in the Committees of these worthies is the infusion of a few energetic and business-like women, with leisure enough to devote to the work and with the practical feminine eye for detail." S. G.

INVENTIONS, PREPARATIONS, &c.

TEUFEL "STOOP-CURE," manufactured by the Teufel Remedial Appliances Company, 61, Moor Lane, London, E.C. A specimen of this "Stoop Cure" has been forwarded to us for our inspection, and we have carefully noted the principle on which it is made. First, as it reaches from the shoulders to the waist, it is undoubtedly a substantial support to the spine; and being shaped anatomically, it is extremely comfortable to wear. It is lined with a soft felt or flannel, while the outside is faced with kid; between these

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