

Mr. BURDETT's own authority for saying that he has devoted much attention and critical inspection to the London Hospital; that he has, in fact, a very intimate acquaintance with the working of that Institution. Why, then, did he not add on to his figures of that Institution "the board of the Nurses?" Surely, because, with his extensive knowledge, he was entirely unaware of the fact that it fed its Nurses. Much might be urged on his behalf. He might, for example, point to the notorious fact that a deluded public pays the Hospital to send out some of its Probationers to be boarded, outside, as "thoroughly Trained Nurses." Whatever the most valid excuse may be for his ignorance, the fact now stands revealed that the one person who has recently claimed to know everything about the London Hospital did not know that it spent anything on the board of its Nurses. It is a strange fact that in the accounts of the London Hospital we find the expenditure on the Nursing Home specially noted; and how Mr. BURDETT could have overlooked this, we frankly confess ourselves unable to explain.

Next, to take the third example, which we culled from the evidence. Mr. BROMLEY pointed out that "with regard to the domestic expenses he puts us down at £25 odd, as against £10 odd at the London; but then the London has an enormous laundry, and they do all their washing themselves. We pay £1,000 a year for washing; and you will see, of course, that in the items which Mr. BURDETT has put down there is no such item as that appearing in his list." Anybody connected with Hospital work will grasp the full significance of this, at once, and only the most dense ignorance can account for anyone failing to comprehend it. Following out our pleasant rôle of defending Mr. BURDETT, we would have explained that he might not have been aware there was any washing necessary at the London Hospital, were it not for the fact that it is public knowledge that this Institution carries, to an extreme length, the proverbial wisdom of washing its soiled linen at home, and that Mr. BURDETT himself has been busily engaged for more than a year in attempting to wash, or rather whitewash, its Nursing department.

We are, therefore, reluctantly compelled to renounce our attempt to explain how it came to pass that Mr. BURDETT arrived at the figures in respect to this matter, which he placed before the Lords' Committee, and the fallacies of which the spokesman of King's College clearly pointed out.

Loeflund's Hordeum Compounds.—C. Pepsin (In dyspepsia), e. Iron in chlorosis, anaemia, jaundice, pleasant and digestible for ladies and children), c. Quinine (an excellent tonic in neuralgia, nervous headache, and debility), C. Lime (—hypophosphite, in rickets, scrofulosis, very digestible). 3s. 6d. R. Baelz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

There is, however, another gem in Mr. BURDETT's evidence, for which we must find space, to rescue it from oblivion. Asked by Lord CATHCART, "Are Nurses' lives considered to be average good lives?" he replied, "I can only give the experience of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, which Lady Bloomfield established. They have never had anybody die yet. The ages of the fifteen annuitants are over eighty; and I am told on medical authority that none of these ladies will die—they will dry up; and till they die they will draw their pension. The medical explanation is this: that a woman when she ceases to work, if she is placed in a position of comfort—that is, freedom from anxiety as to the means of subsistence—will go on in that sort of way, and will not die." We have made inquiries, and are informed that these facts, again, are inaccurate—that annuitants of this fund have died, and that they are twelve in number, and not fifteen. As for the drying-up performance, it is so delightful that we must accord it special consideration at some future time. But it is most difficult to comprehend why ladies who become immortal should pass through such an uncomfortable process as "drying-up." As, according to Mr. BURDETT, some Nurses have no food and no washing, it would be quite in the fitness of things that they should "dry up." But as "none of these ladies will die," it seems somewhat like a broad Hibernianism on Mr. BURDETT's part to state that "till they die they will"—not only dry up, but also—"draw their pensions."

PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION.—XXV.

"Give a History of the Work and Progress of Nursing during the Present Century."

[HONOURABLE MENTION.]

BY MRS. J. G. TAYLOR

(Victoria Hospital for Children, Hull).

BEFORE considering the remarkable progress the Nursing Profession has made during the past few years, and the present assured position of Nurses, will it be permissible to go back in *thought* to a much earlier period than is de-ired of us by the Editor? The faculty of imagination, which is a most valuable possession, is, in my opinion, hardly sufficiently cultivated, and comparatively few realise its advantages. It

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