

any practical result. But on turning to another page of Mr. BURDETT's paper we read:—

“Nurses' Holidays.—The completion of the new buildings at the London Hospital adds twelve more bedrooms to the accommodation provided for the Nurses, and the Nursing Staff has recently been increased by that number. This fact enables the Committee to carry out their long-cherished desire of granting three weeks' annual holiday to all their Staff Nurses.”

“Thus, on one page of a print, which constitutes itself the champion of the authorities of the voluntary Hospitals, we have an important reform announced, while on another those who have ventured to advocate that reform are denounced as a nuisance!

“But the Committee of the London Hospital have not yet gone far enough. The additional week's holiday is granted to Staff Nurses only. Of these, it appears, from the House of Lords' Blue Book, there are but thirty-four, while there are no less than one hundred and thirty-four Probationers, or persons who are learning to nurse—the bulk of the actual Nursing of the Hospital being performed by persons in this state of tutelage. It was submitted to the House Committee at the recent court that it only required an addition of four Nurses to extend the holiday of the whole of these one hundred and sixty-eight persons to three weeks. It seems to be a mere matter of arithmetic. One week's leave of absence to each one of one hundred and sixty-eight Nurses and Probationers is equal to four weeks' leave of absence to forty-two of such persons, or to forty-two weeks' absence to four Nurses; that is to say, if four extra Nurses are engaged for the whole year of fifty-two weeks, the place of the Nurses, each away for an extra week, will be more than supplied. There may be some flaw in this reasoning; but if so, it would be kind in the skilled authorities of the Hospital to point it out, instead of merely denouncing those

who suggest what appears to be a simple means of lightening a very severe strain of continuous Nursing. Certainly no distinction can be drawn between Staff Nurses and Probationers with respect to the need of a holiday. For the Staff Nurses are the survivors, who have become hardened to the work. During the early months, when the girl or woman is in the midst of unwonted sights and sounds, and has not yet gained confidence in her powers, the burden is heavier, and the need of rest and change the greater. Four Staff Nurses at the usual rate of wages would cost a little over £100 a year. Such an item is inappreciable in the great expenditure of the London Hospital. Yet those who have ventured to bring such considerations before the authorities of the Hospital are stigmatised by Mr. BURDETT's paper as a nuisance!

“It is not surprising that such a policy, pursued by the authorities of the largest Hospital in London, and by its advocates in the Press, should create an uneasy feeling on the part of the public, which not unnaturally tends to check the flow of subscriptions, though, as you have pointed out, it would operate more beneficially if it incited to a more active interest in Hospital management.—I am, &c.,

“ROBERT HUNTER.

* * *

We are deeply interested in the Nurses' Co-operation, and have watched its progress with much pleasure. We therefore attended the first annual meeting, held on the 19th inst., instead of sending a reporter. There was a small meeting, which, considering the epidemic, was not surprising. There was a good deal of Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT, which was also not surprising. By the way, it will interest those who imagine that we have any

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