

astute gentlemen will encourage no such extravagance, considering that £10,000 has lately been expended upon the Nursing Home; that they are quite well aware that were the pupils retained to work in the Wards, instead of being sent out Private Nursing, and the Hospital thus depleted to make unjust profits, there would be quite sufficient Nurses to carry on the work most efficiently, and to supply the necessary number required to grant extra holidays as well. Anyway, I, for one Governor, do not intend to rest until our Nurses enjoy the same privileges and liberty of thought as their colleagues in other Hospitals."

* * *

SINCE receiving the above letter, I cull the following paragraph from *The Hospital*: "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 been recently increased by that number. This fact enables the Committee to carry out their long-cherished desire of granting three weeks' annual holiday to their Staff Nurses."

* * *

AT last! I offer my sincere congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. HUNTER, Mr. BAILY, Miss DORA SCRIMGEOUR, and the other Governors of the London Hospital who have for eighteen months appeared at each Quarterly Court and demanded reforms. The attitude of the little band was so determined, and their support was so influential at the December Court, that it is plain that the Committee recognised at last that they "meant business," and have hurriedly given in. Now they have been obliged to concede the holidays, it is only a question of time when the other reforms will follow. Perhaps we shall read, after the March Court, that "the Committee have been able to carry out their long-cherished desire" to honestly perform their contract with their Probationers; or their long-cherished desire to cease to palm off their Probationers as "thoroughly-trained Nurses" upon a gullible, foolishly-trustful public. Who knows what joys are in store for the Committee in the near future, and what "cherished desires" are about to be gratified?

* * *

THE Reformers have still a long list of grievances, and I doubt if any interested and vague assertions on the part of "Uncle Pumblechook," that "the complaints have been refuted"; that the motives of the Reformers are malicious; or "that their proceedings are becoming a dangerous nuisance" (I am glad he recognises the danger at last) will shake their determination to have every single abuse removed. The sooner, therefore, that the Committee begin to "cherish

desires" for the following reforms, the better. For every one of them, and others as well, will doubtless be obtained by these "dangerous" Reformers of whom poor Uncle Pumblechook is so frightened.

1.—That a Nursing Committee shall be appointed to supervise the Nursing Department, as is now done at St. Thomas's, St. George's, and other leading Hospitals.

2.—That the name of every woman entering the service of the Hospital shall be placed on an official list, which shall be regularly inspected by the House Committee.

3.—That no Probationer shall be appointed or be discharged except after an interview with, and only by, the Nursing Committee.

4.—That in order that the patients may obtain skilled Nurses, the term of training of Probationers be raised to three years, which was formerly the rule at the London Hospital.

5.—That the Staff Nurses and Probationers shall have three weeks' *consecutive* holiday in each year.

6.—That all official reports of the work and conduct of the Nurses—by which their qualifications and characters are judged—shall be open to their inspection, and that no private official Register shall be kept by the Matron concerning them.

7.—That only Certificated Nurses in future shall be appointed as Sisters.

8.—That only three years' Certificated Nurses shall be sent out as Private Nurses.

9.—That no uncertificated Probationer shall be sent out as a Private Nurse, and that no Nurse or Probationer shall be withdrawn from the Wards to be sent to any private patient.

10.—That the payments to the Nursing Department, like all other payments to the Hospital, be made to the Secretary, and not to the Matron.

11.—That a report of the receipts and expenditure of the Nursing Department be made to each Quarterly Court; and that the accounts for each year be audited and published with the other accounts of the Hospital.

12.—That the By-laws of the Hospital shall be observed in their integrity.

I congratulate the Reform party on the beginning of the end, and the happy Committee of this "happy Hospital" on obtaining their *very* long-cherished desire. What an unaccustomed pleasure they must have experienced. S. G.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

On and after January 14 the price of this number of "The Nursing Record" will be raised to SIXPENCE, except to those who by that date have become Annual Subscribers.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)