

I CAN speak most highly from personal experience of the high efficiency of the Nursing Department in this Hospital, and I sincerely hope that subscriptions will flow in, to enable the Committee to extend their excellent work.

* * *

The Medical Press and Circular last week made the following very true and apposite remarks, for which nurses will be very grateful:—

"Hospital Nurses, their treatment and position generally, we are glad to see, come in for a fair measure of attention in the Report of the Lords Select Committee on Hospitals. Nothing is more certain than the defenceless position which Nurses occupy, so far as the maintenance and protection of their own interests are concerned. Whatever is given them, that they have to take; there is practically no appeal, no redress to be gained, under the present system of Nursing administration, whenever injustice, hardship, or unkindness is meted out to them. So long as the Matrons of the various Hospitals are permitted to act the part of a despot over the defenceless Nursing staff, so long will abuses exist and oppression prevail in that department of the Institution which of all others should take the lead in showing how perfection is to be attained. A woman, we fear, has no mercy on her own sex when placed in brief authority over some of its members, as is the case in Hospitals; at all events there must be a very large number of former and present house Surgeons and house Physicians who could adduce instances of unworthy treatment by hospital Matrons towards the Nurses under their charge. There are, moreover, two other matters upon which reform is needed in the Nursing department of our Hospitals—and these are, less hours of work and better diet. With regard to the former it would appear that the Nursing day now extends to ten hours and a half; in the London and St. Thomas's longer hours even than these obtain, and, taking into consideration the arduous and fatiguing nature of the work, it seems to us that some reduction in this respect should be made. Upon the question of diet the Lords' Committee recommends a richer diet—there never was much *richness* about a Nurse's diet—and more time for meals—"an actual hour, and not a hasty twenty minutes;" and with these remarks we thoroughly agree. Hospital secretaries, in displaying misplaced keenness to keep down expenses, have been in the habit of providing miserable rations for the Nursing staff; and so much was this the case in one instance, which was under our personal acquaintance, that there was not a Nurse in the institution whose "leanness" was not a reflection upon the administration of the Hospital. In the interests, therefore, of that class of hard-working women—Hospital Nurses—it is to be trusted that the report of the Lords' Committee, in so far as it relates to their position, will bear fruit with Hospital authorities.

* * *

A MOST intelligent review of the Nursing question in connection with the Third Report of the Lords' Committee, will be found in the *Hospital Gazette* for July 9th. So exhaustive and excellent is this article, that I hope many Nurses will make a point of reading it for themselves. S. G.

Unsweetered Condensed Milk, First Swiss Brand.—The perfect food for infants. This is simply pure Alpine Cows' Milk condensed to one-third its bulk, and conserved without the aid of sugar or any other preservative. Ask for the **First Swiss Brand**. Wholesale Offices, 17 and 18, St. Dunstan's Hill, London.

Notes and News.

A VERY sad case is pleaded for, by one of our readers. A girl of nine years old, MARY A. MATKIN by name, one of a large family dependent upon a poor labouring man, is an idiot and cannot even talk—a trouble to herself, and a source of worry and anxiety to all around her. Efforts are being made to secure her admission into the Earlswood Asylum, but this election is her last chance. If any of our readers can obtain votes for this beneficent Institution, and will send them to Miss HELEN CLEMENT, The Sub-Deanery, Lincoln, they will be most gratefully acknowledged; or if they will get the votes filled in for MARY MATKIN, and sent by post to the offices of the Institution, they will be doing a great charity for one who is very sorely afflicted.

* * *

WHEN our Royal Family appear at their best, and where even the most rabid socialists cease to gibe, is when they are engaged in some such pleasing function as that in which the Duchess of Fife engaged recently, when, for sweet charity's sake, she distributed the prizes to the scholars at the Annual Festival of the Infant Orphan Asylum at Wanstead, accompanied by the Duke, who took the chair. The Duchess, with that *suaviter in modo* for which our Royal Family are so renowned, gladdened the hearts of both the children and their friends by the kindly yet simple manner in which she performed her allotted task, whilst the Duke, at the close, spoke a few words of encouragement to the children, and afterwards presided at the luncheon. The only sad note struck in the harmony of the proceedings was when the Duke had to appeal for extra funds in the shape of new Annual Subscriptions (subscribers of 21/- are entitled to four, and subscribers of 10/6 to two votes at each election). There are 601 children now in the Home, and we need not tell our readers that to keep this number of Orphan Children as they should be, and are, kept at Wanstead, requires the purse strings of the charitable to be untied. The Institution is thrown entirely open to visitors every Monday and Thursday, and the energetic Secretary, Mr. HENRY W. GREEN, will be glad to receive subscriptions at the Office, 100, Fleet Street, City, E.C.

* * *

WE have been favoured with a copy of the Birkbeck Building Society's Forty-first Annual Report. We are glad to find that the great commercial crisis through which we have passed this year has not had the slightest adverse effect on the Society's prosperity, and that they have been enabled to increase their surplus funds by upwards of half-a-million.

FUNERALS.—Earth to Earth Burials, Cremations, and Statuary For high-class WORK, the LONDON NECROPOLIS COMPANY, 133, Westminster-bridge-road, and 2, Lancaster-place, Strand.—Telegrams, "Tenebratio, London."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)