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## HOSPITAL CERTIFICATES III.

HERE is still another aspect of this subject which deserves more consideration than it has yet received—the

admitted fact that many charitable Institutions have been wont to grant these documents to women in a somewhat haphazard fashion, although few have pursued in this matter the extraordinary habit of certificating unsatisfactory Nurses, which the Select Committee of the House of Lords has most justly questioned in the case of the authorities of the London Hospital.

It furnishes material for the most serious reflection, that many Hospitals promise pupils, who bind themselves to remain in their service for a certain term, a Certificate of training at the conclusion of that term. It may be argued that this promise is safeguarded, so far as the public is concerned, by the provision, which is almost invariably inserted in these agreements, that if the Probationer proves herself to be inefficient or untrustworthy, she may, and probably will, be dismissed long before her period of training is concluded, and, therefore, before she can claim her testimonial of fitness as a Nurse. But, against this, it must be remembered that a Hospital Certificate does not testify that its possessor is "not inefficient" and "not un-trustworthy"; it is not a negative disproof of bad qualities, but it is a positive guarantee,



