

with whom she has worked. In view of these personal and well-known facts, therefore, we feel confident that no share of the blame of what the public will feel is a most discreditable system, can possibly attach to either of these ladies, and to this extent we differ from the implied censure of our correspondent. It is, moreover, very well known that the Matron of Guy's Hospital is as poorly remunerated for her services—in comparison with the salaries given to their Matrons by other Hospitals—as are the Nurses in this Institution.

But we most unhesitatingly condemn the system which, under the false cloak of Charity, makes such merchandise out of Nurses. Old THOMAS GUY would doubtless groan in the spirit if he were aware that the splendid Institution, founded upon his benevolence, had, at the end of the 19th century, been converted into a commercial concern, grinding the face of its women workers—greedily grasping all it could sweat out of its white slaves, and when they were broken down, tossing them aside like worn-out goods. He would probably say that it was incredible that any body of Englishmen could permit such a state of things to exist—that those entrusted to carry on his great work of benevolence should have so debased its lofty purposes. But facts are stubborn things, and we have heard sufficient from other quarters to amply corroborate all that our correspondent says. And now it is a question for the public, and for the Nurses themselves, to consider whether such a condition of affairs shall be permitted to continue. The reason for this, as for all the other hardships under which the Nursing Department of Guy's Hospital suffers, is the fact that the government of the Institution is an antediluvian, and moreover, a densely ignorant, autocracy. This has been condemned, so far as the particular mildness of the Select Committee of the House of Lords permitted that body to condemn anything, for they report that "the system of administration does not on some points compare favourably with that which

exists at the other general Hospitals. It throws too much power and responsibility into the hands of one individual, the Treasurer."

It has been conclusively proved upon more than one occasion that the medical staff—the men who have worthily inherited the glorious traditions of Guy's, and have added to its fame—the men who would naturally understand, and sympathise with, the hardships under which their Nursing staff suffer—have no shadow of authority in the government of the Institution. All power is left to the sole and almost unfettered will of an official, whose qualifications for his post at Guy's or St. Thomas's, have been described in such inimitable words of biting sarcasm, on a somewhat recent occasion, that we need not recount them again. We may, however, appeal first to the members of the medical staff of Guy's Hospital to use their influence to obtain some measure of justice for these Private Nurses. We hold that it is absolutely indefensible that a so-called Charity should grind such large profit out of its women-workers, should pay them so little and sweat so much out of them, and treat their just demands with such disdain. But if the medical staff are—and with the kindest intentions in the world we expect they are—powerless to secure fair play for the Nurses in the Private Institution, we advise the Nurses to defend themselves from further sweating by resigning their connection with the Home and joining the Nurses' Co-operation, where they will obtain their earnings, less a commission of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to cover office expenses. They are free women, and unless they prefer to be treated with the contemptuous impertinence to which they seem at present to be subjected, they have the remedy in their own hands. We shall be very glad to hear from any of them, and if they decide to resign in a body and have any difficulty in becoming connected, at once, with the Nurses' Co-operation, we have an alternative suggestion which we are prepared to make.

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