

this for long—in fact, it has been well known in professional circles; but no one cares to accuse a body of honourable men of systematically deceiving the public. Everyone has hoped, and hoped, that someone would show the Committee of the London Hospital what was going on, either with or without their knowledge; and so things have drifted on until now the truth is suddenly flashed into publicity.

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THE London Hospital Committee advertise every day in the papers that "thoroughly Trained Nurses can be obtained from the Matron" on payment of certain fees. The London Hospital does not grant its Probationers certificates—in other words, it does not consider them "thoroughly trained"—until they have worked for two years in its Wards. Most Hospitals now regard three years' training as essential; so the two years is certainly a minimum amount of experience. But the Committee of the London Hospital, it is now alleged by witnesses on oath—and we have documentary evidence in our possession to prove the fact—absolutely send out semi-trained Probationers, at the end of a few months' work, to nurse the richer classes, and so pretend that they are thoroughly Trained Nurses! There can be no quibbling about this startling fact. Either these women—scores of them—were in the opinion of the authorities thoroughly trained, in which case they ought in justice to have received their Certificates, or the Hospital has been deceiving the public by palming off upon them an inferior article, and making them pay the full market price for the superior one for which they asked.

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THE Lords Committee will save enormous suffering to the sick if it will fix the responsibility for this extraordinary conduct upon the proper shoulders, so that any recurrence of it will be rendered impossible in the future. The Committee of the Hospital of course is nominally responsible, but surely these proceedings have been taken without its authorisation and cognisance.

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EVERY Nurse will be delighted to hear that the question of the very unusual death-rate amongst the Nurses at the London Hospital was also raised. It is openly talked about, this great fatality amongst not puny, unhealthy people, be it remembered—but women who had passed the critical medical examination and been certified as strong enough for the work. Everyone knows that in other Hospitals it is the rarest thing for Nurses thus to be cut off, although their health or their energy may suffer. I hear for example that only one has died in the last three

years at St. Bartholomew's, where there are probably quite as many Nurses as at the London. If, however, as the witnesses on Monday alleged, the Wards are flooded with three months' paying Probationers, who know nothing, and are only a source of anxiety to the Sister and Staff Nurse, for fear they shall commit some dreadful mistake; if the best regular Probationers are drafted off to nurse the rich outside the Hospital walls; if the responsible head of the Ward, the Sister, is often herself a semi-trained woman, no wonder that the Nurses upon whom the tremendous strain of the work comes have their young lives crushed out of them. Probably Lord Sandhurst little knows what a great national, if not universal, service his Committee is rendering by drawing public attention to these glaring evils—this white slavery.

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THERE are other questions which the Committee might well ask. Registration of Nurses, by showing who are trained, and who presumably are not trained, would have prevented the London Hospital from palming off upon the public these semi-trained women. Surely this cannot be the reason why the London Hospital so strenuously opposed Registration? And we should like to know what possible excuse can the Matron advance for her action in the matter? This lady some time ago published a pamphlet *against* Registration, the one argument in which was, that a Register was quite unnecessary for the safety of the public, when *fully trained* Nurses could always be obtained from the Private Nursing Staffs of great Hospitals. And yet when she wrote that, the very Hospital itself which she is engaged at was sending out untrained women to the richer classes when they, confiding in the truthfulness and good faith of a great public Institution, asked for a "thoroughly trained Nurse," to tend some one near and dear to them.

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THE *Dundee Advertiser*, sent to me by a correspondent, has the following:—"The Dundee Sick Poor Nursing Society has begun well. The Society has only been at work since March, and the two Nurses in its employment have attended one hundred cases. The good already done is an index of what will be accomplished when the staff of Nurses is increased. Illness in a poverty-stricken house entails a degree of misery of which the well-to-do can have little conception, and it would be difficult to over-estimate the diminution of suffering and wretchedness which the ministrations of the Society's Nurses has effected. During the few months they have been at work the two Nurses on the staff have paid fully fifteen

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