

will greatly relieve the pressure upon it, and incalculably promote the general welfare.

I READ with pleasure, one day last week, the following letter in *The Pall Mall Gazette*: "Sir,—In your leading article of to-day (26th) you give a valuable hint to the public when you suggest placing women on the Committees of Hospitals. There are many ladies who, in addition to their knowledge of domestic management, have gone through training in first-rate Hospitals, and who would prove most useful in these posts. Having had to do with Hospitals myself, I have found that a committee, consisting of most worthy gentlemen, with slight knowledge of the subject, are often trying to deal with. A celebrated Matron of thirty years' standing in one of our chief Hospitals often told me how hard she had found it to introduce the necessary reforms and refinements into her Hospital in face of such a committee. Doctors are busy people, and can rarely give the time necessary for this work; and no Hospital should be managed from a medical point of view alone, any more than it should be from a Nursing or business point. But a judicious admixture of the three might be advantageous. A word more on the 'exacting vocation of Nursing.' Is it not wrong that so many selected, strong young women should temporarily and permanently break down in this work? If in any other profession such results occurred, would not the employers be called to public account?—Yours obediently, ISABEL ENTWISTLE."

MISS ENTWISTLE is a lady of wide and varied experience in Nursing, and had the courage to come forward before the Lords' Committee and give evidence concerning the Nursing Department of St. Thomas's Hospital, laying special stress on the fact of the overwork of the Staff Nurses, who were on duty till ten p.m. Miss ENTWISTLE is a lady of ability and independent means, and I should advise her to offer herself as a candidate for the Committee to one of our large London Hospitals. I feel sure her personal knowledge of a Nurse's duties, and her sympathy with their "exacting vocation," would make her a most valuable assistant on the Managing Committee of any Hospital.

A CORRESPONDENT—a Governor of the London Hospital—writes: "I was very much amused at Mr. BURDETT's garbled account of the London Hospital Quarterly Court in his paper, *The*

*Hospital*. Considering that one of the porters is permitted to hawk this publication through every department of the Institution, and to persuade the poverty-stricken out-patients to buy several hundred copies every week, it would never do to report the truth—*i.e.*, that the Committee and their supporters (many of them tradesmen in the vicinity who supply the Hospital with goods) absolutely declined either to lengthen the holidays of the Nurses, or to refrain from breaking their contract with them. Do the Nurses in the London Hospital know that the Committee made a net profit out of their Nurses and *pupils'* labour, of £1,377 in 1890? Do they recognise the fact that in sending them out as Private Nurses before their training is complete the Committee are depriving them of their just rights—that is, two years' instruction in the science of Nursing in the Wards of the Hospital? I cannot believe they know these things, and still keep silent. I am not surprised at Mr. BURDETT supporting this system of sweating, although he judiciously misrepresents the case in print by stating that 'the Court heartily concurred' with Miss SCRIMGEOUR's resolution that the Nurses should have three weeks' holiday." In reality, as our report shows, the Committee and a majority of the Court voted against this humane proposal.

"I CANNOT refrain from expressing my surprise at the manner in which Father GORMAN championed the abuses. First of all, it appears to me very unseemly in a priest of the Church of Rome to take such a combative attitude on any mundane question, especially if he is unable to control his temper; and, secondly, if there is any truth in the old adage, that 'a fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind,' Father GORMAN should be the last person to attempt to prevent the Nurses at the London Hospital obtaining the rest and change so necessary for the efficient performance of their arduous duties, considering with what gusto he himself enjoys these blessings, to judge by his appreciation of the charms of the Channel Isles, where a friend of mine happened to meet him once upon a time in most charming society."

"MR. BURDETT suggests that Mr. COSTELLOE (Member London County Council) and Mr. ROBERT HUNTER (Solicitor to the Post Office) shall cease to express their opinions and straightway collect funds with which to build extra rooms for a greater supply of Nurses. I imagine these

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