

I particularly enjoin upon every Nurse, who has any regard to her own self-respect and Nursing skill, to ever perform her duties with every possible regard to cleanliness, decency and order, for all of these things tend—and very much tend—to the comfort of your patient, and enhance her good opinion of you. Having finished the preparation of the bed, you must get the patient's night dress, binder, and other linen required during labour, to the fire, and see that you air them thoroughly; do not crowd the clothes-horse with articles, but spread them out so as to have everything required dry and warm.

Whilst you have been busy with all these Nursing cares, we may well guess that your patient has not been idle, and that you will soon have her in her bedroom with you. The various symptoms I have previously described to you as announcing the nearness of labour have been of a more or less passive character; but we are now coming to a more active state of things, and the advent of the pains of labour marks the beginning of the end, and with them a Nursing point of some difficulty and much importance. During her Hospital training, a Nurse has, of course, a fair opportunity of watching the progressive course of labour, and her books describe them to her; but without thoughtful observation on her part, neither books nor Hospital will be of much use when she has to think out for herself the question as to when she should summon the Doctor.

(To be continued.)

### MR. BARNARDO AND SISTER CLARA.

BEFORE pursuing this subject further, it is necessary that a short history, showing how Sister Clara became associated in the work of Mr. Barnardo, be given.

It appears that in the year 1884 Sister Clara (then occupied in Private Nursing) knew Mr. and Mrs. Barnardo as friends, and visited them several times as such. On more than one of these occasions Sister Clara was asked to accept the post of Matron, which was about to become vacant, and as oftentimes declined the proffered honour, particularly so, knowing that the preceding Matrons had not altogether proved satisfactory according to Mr. Barnardo's views, as the number and frequency of the changes made in the "post" up to that time fully indicated.

At last Mrs. Barnardo wrote to a friend of Sister Clara's, asking that friend to persuade Sister Clara to accept the proffered appointment, which after some little hesitation Sister Clara did, accepting office for one month to "fill up a gap," and act as

*locum tenens*, at a remuneration of two guineas per week. This period at length expired, and Sister Clara, yielding to the overtures made to her and feeling intensely interested in the work among the children, agreed to continue permanently in charge at a salary of £60 per annum, with three months' notice on either side, Sister Clara to have also (for family and private reasons not necessary to be explained here) eight weeks' absence (during which time she agreed to provide a substitute at her own expense), and to be given absolute control of the Hospital, including the engaging and dismissing of Nurses, servants, and oversight generally.

This was all agreed to *verbally* (written agreements appear to be for some reason generally conspicuous by their absence in the Barnardo *ménage*), as an entry in Sister Clara's diary at that time abundantly proves, and which we here set out:

"Entry in diary, January 13, 1885.—Went over to the 'Doctor' in his office. We settled that I remain as Matron on the usual terms—£60 per annum, three months' notice."

Six months from this time a "Governor" was appointed, and at about twelve o'clock one night Mr. Barnardo made the request that the new "Governor" should—for some unexplainable reason or other, as "Governors" of Institutions where a Matron is appointed are not generally entrusted with such powers—engage the Nurses and servants of the Hospital. Sister Clara very naturally objected, particularly as she had only half a year before been given such authority and control, and offered to resign her post if necessary. Mr. Barnardo, apparently on after consideration thinking it wise and more prudent to keep to his original compact with Sister Clara, would not accept the resignation, and took no further steps in the matter. Thereupon Sister Clara retained the control originally given to her until she finally severed her connection with the Hospital, and matters must have progressed pretty satisfactorily, for Mr. Barnardo forwarded the following note to Sister Clara some nine months after her taking up her duties under him.

"December 24, 1885.

"Dear Sister Clara,—Please accept the accompanying book, with the assurances of my appreciation of your *valuable services in the Infirmary*."

"Mrs. Barnardo joins with me in wishing you hearty Christmas greetings and a very happy New Year.

"With kind regards to your sister and to all under your charge,

"Believe me to be, faithfully yours,

"THOS. J. BARNARDO."

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