

Nurse Hughes stated that the Matron asked her to help her to paint Nurse Belsey's throat. Plaintiff opened her mouth whilst the throat was painted twice by the Matron.—Cross-examined: Plaintiff offered no resistance.—Evidence was given by Sarah Jane Johnson to the effect that plaintiff expressed a desire to be relieved of night duty.—Nurse Prosser said that plaintiff told her that she had been obliged to leave the Southern Hospital, Manchester, because the work was too hard for her.—In addressing the jury for the defence, Mr. Amphlett characterised the action as unreasonable, and as one of the most outrageous upon which any jury had been asked to assess damages. He submitted that the matron would have been wanting in her duty if she had not pursued the course she had in regard to the plaintiff when ill. If trumpery cases of that kind were allowed to lie, the County Courts might be full of such business. Lawyers would have a very good time, but he was afraid that other people would not. To cover any technical assault which might have been committed the defendant had paid into Court 10s., which he thought would be considered 9s. 11½d. too much.—Replying on behalf of the plaintiff, Mr. Ashton contended that the letter written to Miss Barnfather by the defendant meant that the plaintiff was too silly, too stupid, and too foolish to be a nurse. He submitted that violence was used by the matron towards the plaintiff, and on that ground, as well as for the libel contained in the letter, he asked the jury to award his client reasonable damages.—His Honour observed that, looked at in one way, the action appeared to be rather a tempest in a teapot. The jury knew what useful institutions hospitals were. It was most important that in such institutions, where the matron was necessarily invested with large powers, the probationers under her should not in any way be bullied. On the other hand, it was most im-

portant that a matron who discharged such useful and beneficent duties should not be harassed if she had honestly and properly done her duty.—The jury returned a verdict for the defendant.—Judgment was given accordingly.

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