

the-East, for nearly three years, and prior to that, had been assistant superintendent at the Infirmaries of St. Pancras, and of Shoreditch. He was asked whether the Matron possessed a copy of the rules relating to her duties, and replied that she had, and that she stated to him, that she had not the slightest intention of obeying them, adding "no set of rules has ever been drawn up which I cannot evade; I shall do my utmost to render these rules unworkable."

Dr. Toogood was questioned as to an assertion by Miss Pattison, that the steward did not attend to her orders, and that this hindered her in her work. He replied that he had no report from the Matron on the matter. That with regard to the non-delivery of stores, he could only find one formal complaint in his book that certain night shirts had not been delivered. He said that he had frequently been called upon to settle the differences between the steward and Miss Pattison; and that once especially he had to decide that orders to the male staff should not be given by the Matron, but must be given by himself or the steward. On several occasions he had heard the Matron shouting at the steward, and he attributed all the altercations between the Matron and the steward, to the extremely irascible temper habitually exhibited by Miss Pattison.

With reference to a delay which occurred in opening the Albert Ward to patients, Dr. Toogood stated that on October 30th he requested as a matter of special urgency that a number of beds in this Ward should be prepared. On Nov. 2nd, the Matron reported that the supply of night shirts by the Steward did not permit of the admission of the patients into the Albert Ward. Upon that he wrote that "the delay reflects credit on no one." On Nov. 3rd, Miss Pattison came to him in the Ward evidently in a state of extreme passion, and said "How dare you make such reports in my report book, I will not allow you to make such reports." To which he replied that he made such reports as part of his duty. In reply to further questions, Dr. Toogood stated that the opening of the Albert Ward was absolutely necessary and could have been effected in a few hours; that there were plenty of day shirts in stock which certainly could have been used temporarily as night shirts.

Dr. Toogood was asked if he had said that the Matron did not visit the Wards. He explained that he had complained to the Matron that the custom she had commenced of having the Sisters to her office to report to her, withdrew them from the Wards, and he asked therefore that she should see them in the Wards or communicate with them through the telephone, which was all he complained of. The Matron he said did not, however, comply with his request and still summoned the Sisters to her office.

With reference to other matters, Dr. Toogood complained that the Matron had not complied with his instructions as to all candidates for Nursing appointments being interviewed by him and that she had sent the Nurses to consult outside medical practitioners when they required advice. He put in a letter he had received from the Matron in which she denied the former allegation and stated that she would pursue the same course in respect to the latter matter, finally stating "one more or less untrue statement from you concerning what I have done or have not done is nothing to me now as you will be obliged to prove what you have written if you can."

Letters were put in which had passed between the Medical Superintendent and the Matron and from which it appeared that, in at least one instance, in which the former had sanctioned the employment of convalescent patients in the Wards, the Matron had told a Nurse to disobey such instructions, a fact which the Medical Superintendent characterised in a letter to the Matron as "gross insubordination."

Dr. Toogood complained that despite his distinct instructions, the Matron moved Nurses from block to block without obtaining his previous sanction and specially quoted a case in which a Nurse had been moved from the erysipelas ward to a ward in which there was a lying-in case. It was, however, stated that the Nurse in question, had, by the orders of the Matron, been completely disinfected before entering the second ward, and the Matron added that her experience was sufficiently great to enable to judge what was best in such a matter. (Later on in the enquiry, the Nurse herself was examined, and stated that despite the Matron's instructions, she had only washed her hands and face, and had not disinfected her hair, nor changed her cap, although she had changed her clothes.)

Finally Dr. Toogood stated that on many occasions the Matron had shown a spirit of intolerance, and had been openly rude to himself and to other officers.

In cross-examination by Mr. Henry, Dr. Toogood admitted that when the Matron came to him in the wards as already described, she asked him to come outside and speak to her, and that he declined to do so, whereupon she made the remark already quoted; that it was possible that the Nurses only went to the Matron's office in their off-duty time, and he was aware that the Matron had stated this fact; and that it was no part of his duty as laid down by the Local Government Board to attend upon the Nursing staff. He acknowledged the Matron had written that she believed her wishes were in accordance with his as to the employment of convalescent patients in cleaning knives, forks and brasses, but not in actual attendance on the other patients. He admitted not having expressed objection when a so-called 'similar' transfer of Nurses had taken place on an occasion previous to the Nurse Alison case.

Re-examined by Mr. Mott, he said that on one occasion when he objected to the Matron having a pass key, which not only opened the front door but the dispensary and his private office, she answered that he did not know how to manage an Institution, and that she intended to work the place like an Hospital and not like an antiquated Poor Law Infirmary.

Re-cross-examined, he admitted that he did eventually give her a pass key after the locks had been altered.

The Medical Superintendent's witnesses were then called.

Mr. Spencer Lamb (Steward) deposed that the Matron on one occasion received and opened a parcel of linen from Atkinson and Co. He was absent at the time. She ignored his position, and gave orders to the house-porters. Mrs. Annie French (scrubber) had heard the Matron shouting at the Steward; but did not know what was said. Sister Savers repeated Dr. Toogood's version of what transpired in the Albert Ward. She added that the Matron had ordered

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