

Ernest Durrant to remove his own dressing—an anti-septic one for cystic tumour of the neck. Sister Collins said the Matron had given orders that patients were not to do anything in the wards or kitchens, but they might clean knives and forks in the bath-room. Sister Carey's evidence was to the same effect. Nurse Rees admitted that the Matron had not *ordered* her to go out, but advised her to do so as doctors sometimes objected to undertake dentistry work. Nurse Alison admitted that the Matron had told her to change all her things; but, under cross-examination, she acknowledged that she had not changed her cap nor disinfected her hair, and that the erysipelas cases were at the time peeling. Ernest Durrant was called. The evidence of George Gay and Robert Rudrum had to be taken in the wards, as they were too ill to leave. The former said that someone, like the lady standing at the foot of the bed (the Matron), had undone his bandages after he had been prepared for the night, and caused him pain, so that he could not sleep. He had had an operation performed on him. Robert Rudrum had heard the Matron make some remark about his diet, and after the Superintendent had ordered it, she advised some other diet.

This concluded the case for Dr. Toogood.

Miss Pattison was then called. She said she had had considerable experience since 1884 of Hospital Nursing work. She had last been for two years at the Liverpool Infirmary as Assistant Matron; she had never before been reported for insubordination. She admitted that she had on one occasion told a porter to bring a parcel of linen just received from a contractor to the linen room having been informed that the steward was out; in order to check the invoice she opened the parcel. The steward then entered with porters and rudely ordered the linen to be taken to his room. She admitted that on two or three occasions she had made wrong entries as to the times the scrubbers had been at work; but she had apologised for the error. She did not remember having altered the hours of the dining of the male staff from 1 o'clock to 12; she might have altered it about a quarter of an hour in order not to clash with the entrance of the scrubbers who changed their clothes in the same room. She denied having said she would evade the rules; but she had endeavoured to have the rules amended that she might obey them. As to the preparation of the Albert Ward, the requisition of Dr. Toogood was not received by her till October 31st when she sent for the Book. Not more than hour and a half elapsed before she sent to the steward for night-shirts. On the 3rd November she went into the Albert Ward and asked to speak to Dr. Toogood. Sister Sawyer was with him. He stood in the doorway; she was in the corridor. She remarked, "You have made a great mistake. I will not have statements of this kind entered in the Report Book." Dr. Toogood did not wait to hear more, but walked away. She did not know there were sufficient day shirts to open the ward. She had said she would only make one requisition, as more than one led to confusion. In regard to Sisters coming to her office between 8.30 and 9 in the morning when off duty, her object was to know what time they wished to go out; and in the evening she had them there to check the time they left the wards; and also to be informed by them if anything had happened which would necessitate any

alteration in the Nursing arrangements for the night. The telephone was out of order once or twice. She usually visited the wards three times a day. She had never told a Nurse not to employ patients; she knew female patients were allowed to do sewing; cleaning knives, forks, and brasses could be done by them. In defence of her removing Nurse Alison from an erysipelas ward, she said the Medical Superintendent had said he did not wish to be informed of removals till afterwards if the Matron had sufficient reason for a change. She mentioned the case of Nurse Shenton having been transferred in the same way, and to which no objection had been taken. She had not criticised the treatment of the Medical Superintendent. In regard to George Gay, she was going on her rounds one evening when the dressings were being made. She had no distinct recollection of the case of Robert Rudrum. She had probably said that she would try to work the place like a Hospital.

In cross-examination by Mr. Mott, she denied having said she would make the rules unworkable. She had said, that if the medical superintendent wanted to see her report book, he could come to her office. But nevertheless, she always sent the book to the medical superintendent by the head porter. She denied Gay's statement. She admitted having said on October 30th to the Committee, that she would consider whether she could conform to the rules which had been adopted on the 4th October.

Cross-examined by Dr. Toogood. She adhered to her statement that she did not say "how dare you make such Reports," and that had she known there were sufficient day shirts, she would have requisitioned for them. On reference to her letter to the Local Government Board, it was found that in her reference to this matter, there was some obscurity which might or might not carry the impression that she knew about them. There was a discrepancy in regard to this point between this letter, and the copy of it in the solicitor's hands. She did not realise it was her duty to report the delay in opening the ward between October 31st and November 3rd. She acknowledged that under exceptional circumstances, Nurses might have waited 10 or 15 minutes outside her office; but they were off duty. She acknowledged that she had not taken steps to find out if the patients in the erysipelas ward were convalescent, and she admitted that a Nurse might have been transferred from some other ward to Victoria. The case of Nurse Shenton, who had been transferred from an erysipelas ward, perhaps would not have come to the knowledge of the superintendent till two or three days after the Nurse had been on night duty.

The following witnesses for Miss Pattison were called:—

Nurse Petrement, Head Nurse over Victoria and Alexandra ward, said that Nurse Alison did not go near the lying-in patient.

Miss Marie Campbell said the Steward had behaved rudely to the Matron when ordering goods, which had been brought to the linen room in his absence, to be taken to his stores.

Nurse Blower was present when the Matron examined the wound of Gay, which was being dressed.

The inquiry was then concluded; and Dr. Downes said the Guardians would hear the decision of the Local Government Board in due course.

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