

jurisprudence. Thirdly, he maintained that the indefiniteness and multiplex condition of the charges brought against this woman were beyond his comprehension. For instance, they had heard from several gentlemen that she had been dismissed for being impudent to His Worship the Mayor and other gentlemen on the Hospital Committee. They had heard also that she had been dismissed because of her tyranny, of her inhumanity and un-Christian conduct, and he heard again that she had been dismissed, on a charge brought against her because she prayed too much. That was one of the charges outside.

"The Mayor: Excuse me, Councillor Whelan, but in these charges will you please state what is outside and what is inside.

"Councillor Whelan (continuing) said he had done so. *De novo* he was justified in saying that these charges were not only multiform but complex. He maintained that every criminal in the land, however black his crime might be, and with regard to Miss Warrener, she might be the greatest virago existing in the land, her crimes might be as black as night, yet he said she had a perfect right and was entitled to have her accuser brought before her face, and a perfect right to demand a judicial inquiry, so far as the Hospital Committee could give it, and get fair play. This, he opined, she had not had; that was his opinion. There were serious charges which had been made there, but they would come under the second heading, and he would not venture on them now. Of course, as he said, he was not in favour of Miss Warrener or any other man or woman. He asked those who knew something about Miss Warrener to her prejudice, what they had to be afraid of? Why did not they come forward before her face and state their charges against her? He would not hang a dog on the evidence. Someone buttonholed them at the corner of the street, and said this and the other about her. He maintained on such evidence no court of law in the land would condemn anyone. If those people had the courage of their convictions, and were not afraid of the truth of their statements, they ought to come manfully forward and state their grievances before the woman's face; but they had not done so. Then there was the medical staff. They blamed her for being too officious; blamed her because she would not allow the doctors to speak to the patients. He, too, had heard some of the councillors say she was a perfect fiend, and they could not say anything to her. She might be that, but just fancy an able-bodied man, a man of vigour and health, being afraid of a poor frail woman. If he wished to ask a question, if he wanted to speak to a patient, did they think Miss Warrener would stop him? They accused her of going round with towels and soap and having a number of nurses following her! Well, he knew that was done in every hospital in the land; the nurses followed the matron from bed to bed. Those were not indictable offences. If she had been cruel or neglected her patients those were indictable offences, but to refuse to answer questions was not an indictable offence. If they treated one official like that they ought to treat every official alike, but they had not done that. Take Dr. Rhodes, for instance. When Ald. Rigge asked a question, he could not answer it, and wanted notice, and that was only a question of a month old, whilst that case about Cuthbert occurred

eight years ago, and it was natural that any man or woman would fail to attach their memory to anything which had occurred that length of time since. He believed the other case—that of Gillooley—occurred this year. Well she ought to have been able to answer that case if she knew of it, but what harm was there in the woman asking for time? The answering of a question depended a great deal in the way or manner it was asked. There was a great deal in that, and to his mind, she was perfectly right in asking for time to look up a case which occurred nine years ago. They had not granted her that. He asked them to place themselves in her position. She was a woman with all the fine sensibilities which women possess. She was there before eight or nine men, and each could put a question to her, or a number of questions, and that woman was there standing alone amongst these men, and it required a woman of great presence of mind, and a great deal of assurance, to stand before these nine men. Let them put their wives or sisters in Miss Warrener's place. Let them 'Do unto others as they would they should do unto them.' 'Be just, and fear not.' They were strong and they were powerful, and might carry their motion, but he hoped there would be some hearts in that room that would vibrate and try to do justice to a woman that had been thrown, they might say, on the streets. They had a majority and might be able to use it, but he would have them remember this, the day would come, and it was not far distant, when a greater power outside, and a more powerful voice which he and they and everyone in that room would have to go before, would have to be reckoned with, and if they were found wanting they would be blown like chaff before the wind from that Council Chamber. He had great pleasure in moving the amendment."

The amendment was seconded by Alderman Rowbottom, who said that "he was of the same opinion as Councillor Whelan, that it was a disgrace to the borough to discharge a person like that, taking the Irishman's rule, 'Take one side, and I'm satisfied. It is no use hearing the other side.'" A great deal of discussion ensued upon the amendment, in the course of which a "wordy warfare" took place between Alderman Rowbottom and Alderman Rigge. Amidst great excitement Alderman Rowbottom was heard to say something about a "deliberate lie," when the Mayor called him to order. Alderman Rowbottom said he would use a more aristocratic word, and "would give him the lie direct," and added that he would make it a "double dyed lie direct."

Ultimately the previous question was moved and declared by the Mayor to be carried unanimously. On this statement being challenged by Councillor Whelan, it was found that the numbers were 14 to 4.

We feel sure that all fair-minded persons will consider that, as a matter of elementary justice, Miss Warrener is entitled to a full investigation of the charges which have been brought against her, and we strongly advise her not to submit to the high-handed method of the Mayor of Glossop and his supporters. These men must be made to justify their tyrannous conduct in relation to a responsible

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