

November 18th, Dr. W. H. Maling was paying a professional visit to myself, and as Nurse was in my room he noticed her face and examined it most carefully, and told her she might continue the painting locally, and not over such a large surface as she herself had been doing. I told Nurse I thought I had better make some arrangements with the lady for whom she was booked, but she pleaded to be allowed to go.

On November 19th Nurse asked to go into the town, and on her return informed me that she had been to consult Dr. Squance. I told her that I could not allow any treatment in the Institute by an outside doctor without the sanction of our own honorary medical attendant, Dr. W. H. Maling.

On November 20th Nurse went to the lady for whom she was booked, and in the course of two or three days informed me that she was much better, and I did not see her again until

December 10th, when she came to ask me for three days' holiday, after December 20th. I, thinking this was the extra time promised on

October 23rd said "yes," but immediately replied, "but, nurse, you must have your face attended to." She then explained that was why she wished the holiday, and that Dr. Squance was going to do it at her patient's house. I then withdrew the leave I had granted for two reasons; the first and greatest being that it would be simply impossible to work the institute on such conditions; the second reason being that Dr. Squance was not her patient's doctor, and there might be professional troubles. On the evening of

December 10th I wrote to nurse suggesting that she might ask Dr. Squance to consult with Dr. Maling, thinking this might get over the difficulty.

On December 14th I received a letter from Nurse Foote, in which she says, "I am sorry I cannot do as you suggest. I have no right to ask Dr. Squance to consult with Dr. W. H. Maling, etc., etc.," and enclosing her resignation, and wilfully endured pain until she left on January 13th.

It was stated in court that three days after she left, on

January 16th, Dr. Squance opened the abscess, and also, when syringing it a day or two afterwards, a piece of bone came away; when asked the size, the doctor replied "about half the size of a pea." I mention this because of the *three days' delay* on Dr. Squance's part, after she had left the Institute, and because it had been said that through my not allowing her the three days' holiday on December 20th, a large piece of the jaw bone had become diseased, and had to be removed. Nurse Foote could have gone to her home in the South had she wished, but it was not convenient at that time of year to do so, and I knew this. It was not brought out in evidence that the three days I had promised were extra leave, and no part of her holiday. Our rules are, holidays are to be taken at a time convenient to the Institute. The Judge found for Nurse for Breach of Contract, damages 5s. As I read it, because I withdrew the leave after granting it, *not* because it was *inconvenient* to the Institute, and I was therefore introducing a new element into the agreement.

On July 2nd I received the following from Nurse Foote:—

"Dear Mrs. Marriner,—I am dreadfully sorry over all that has happened. I was very grieved to see you looking so ill, etc., etc., and I shall never forgive myself for taking it up. I had no ill will towards you, neither did I intend it to hurt you in any way, etc., etc. After being taken up it could not possibly be dropped again; it would have been unfair to others, but it was equally hard for me to do it, as it was for you to bear. I would have said something nice about you, but your barrister did not give me the chance, etc., etc. I expect you are very vexed with me, but I hope you will forgive me. This is the only thing now that is in my power to do, so if you won't, I cannot do anything else.—Yours sincerely,

"(Signed) SELINA HAWKINS FOOTE."

Nurse in court said that Dr. W. H. Maling treated her with great kindness, skill, and attention, and I myself have had no complaint; quite the reverse.

As regards the report as it appears in Saturday's issue, July 13th, I wish to make a correction. May I say that under the committee I have full control and management of the Institute; also that I alone engage all nurses and, if a necessity arises, dismiss them. Should a nurse think herself wrongfully dismissed she has full power to appeal to the committee. I have been here over five years without such having been necessary.

The committee meet every month to discuss the affairs of the Institute, and to pass accounts. I do not think that either nurses or myself need wish for a more just one. The comfort and financial benefits for the nurses are considered from every point of view, and had it not been for the loyalty of my committee and nurses I could never, in face of the difficulties I had to meet, have reorganized the place and made it a financial success.

After the yearly expenses are paid any money over is divided as bonus. Last year the lowest bonus given was £3, and the highest £8.

I enclose a copy of a letter received from my committee on July 1st:

DEAR MADAM,—I am desired by the committee of the Nursing Institute to convey to you the following resolution, which was unanimously passed at their meeting to day:

Resolved—"That the committee of the Institute sympathise with the Matron, Mrs. Marriner, and the Honorary Medical Officer, Dr. W. H. Maling, in the annoyance which the recent action by Nurse Foote has caused them, and beg to express their continued confidence in them, and their thanks to them for the assistance which they have given in the course of the action."

I am, Dear Madam,
Faithfully yours,
(Signed) T. S. LARCOMBE.

Believe me,
Very faithfully,
A. L. MARRINER,
Matron.

[We publish with pleasure Mrs. Marriner's letter as we do all non-libellous communications for which we have space.

In annotating the report of the case referred to by Mrs. Marriner, we expressed the opinion that the time has gone past for medical men to manage

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