

The Medical Superintendent took the only course consistent with the maintenance of discipline and the welfare of the staff and patients entrusted to his care, and suspended both nurses until the next meeting of the Committee. Both nurses received their salaries up to February 13th, and, in the case of one whose home was in the provinces, her mother was communicated with by telegram.

About an hour afterwards, six other nurses went in a body to the office of the Medical Superintendent and stated that they were equally guilty. Their attitude and demeanour exhibited no contrition or regret, rather that there were too many of them to be dealt with summarily at once, and that they held the key of the situation.

The Medical Superintendent, however, dealt with this fresh development with promptitude and decision, and suspended these six nurses also until the next meeting of the Committee. Their subsequent conduct showed that the only wise and just course had been taken. Their behaviour to the Assistant Matron, whose duty it was to take over their uniform, was noisy and insolent, and there was no symptom of regret for their very grave misdemeanour.

When the eight nurses, five of whom were deputy charge nurses, subsequently appeared before the Committee, and one and all acknowledged their share in this dastardly deed, this attitude was still maintained. The Committee were absolutely unanimous that the conduct of the nurses, subsequent to their dismissal, proved the wisdom of the Medical Superintendent in requiring the culprits to leave the institution at once after suspension, instead of allowing them to remain resident until after the next meeting of the Committee. The presence of the eight nurses, glorying in their fault, amongst the rest of the staff for a week, would certainly have been most disastrous to the welfare of the institution. That eight members of the nursing staff of the institution should have shown themselves so devoid of womanly feeling and lacking of a primary conception of honourable conduct must be a bitter disappointment to the authorities who have striven hard for its welfare. But at least there is cause for congratulation that the staff is purged of members who could commit so cowardly an assault. It is impossible to believe that women who could act as these nurses acted towards one of their number would treat helpless imbecile patients with the consideration, kindness, and patience which they require. The Committee, Medical Superintendent, and Matron are therefore to be congratulated on the course they have taken.

The Resignation of Miss Roberts.

The announcement of the resignation of Miss Roberts, the Lady Superintendent of the Nurses' Co-operation, 8, New Cavendish Street, will be received with regret, not only by the nurses of the Co-operation, but by many members of the nursing profession with whom Miss Roberts has been brought into contact during the three years she has held this important position. Courtesy in the discharge of routine duties is a primary virtue in a public official, and one which has been characteristic of the methods of work of the Lady Superintendent of the Nurses' Co-operation.

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



There are rumours of more friction between certain members of the Chartered Nurses' Society and their Secretary, Miss Etta Jackson, and we learn that, as usual when members have cause of complaint, and bring such complaint before their Committee, their resignation is the result.

This is not extraordinary when one realises that the Committee of this Society, largely composed of medical men and a few Matrons, excludes the nurses from all representation, and thus denies to them participation in the management of their own Society, and, furthermore, places qualified, certificated professional women under the control of a Secretary who is a lay woman and, therefore, is not qualified to exercise the wide powers of professional supervision and personal authority with which of recent years she has been entrusted.

That resentment upon the part of well-trained and self-respecting women should be the result of this obsolete management by the Committee of the Chartered Nurses' Society is not surprising. The nurses have but to compare their helpless condition with that of their colleagues on the Nurses' Co-operation and the Registered Nurses' Society, where on the Committees of each of these Societies the nurse-members have ample representation, and are encouraged to take an interest in the discipline and general well-being of the Co-operation. Again, at both of these Co-operations the office is under the control of a thoroughly qualified nurse, who understand the nurses' point of view, and in whose judgment they can place every confidence.

The remedy is simple. The Chartered Nurses should demand direct representation on the Committee which governs their Society, so that they can voice their own views, help to control the finances, and select their own officials. At present their position is much like the proposed indentured labour of the heathen Chinese, and it is useless to protest against the inevitable result so long as they hire themselves out under this most undignified system.

At the last meeting of the Devonport Guardians Mr. Trisk stated that patients were brought to the

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