

and have been much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. The invalid diet supplied by the members and hon. members of the Division to the Queen's District Nurses, 4, Bromham Road, has been a great boon to the poor patients, amongst whom they have been able to distribute over 1,196 gifts of nourishing food. Thanks were accorded to the hon. members who kindly assisted by providing a week's invalid diet and subscribing to the fund. Also to Mrs. Mayo and Mr. T. K. Green for help with the soup, and to Mr. J. A. Weston for kindly auditing the accounts.

It would interest members to know, states the Report, that at the request of the Editor (the Lady Hermione Blackwood) a full account of the work of the sick diet guild was written by Mrs. Alfred Paine for insertion in the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine*, and led to many inquiries from other nursing associations. The Hon. Superintendent (Mrs. Alfred Paine) had assisted in the invalid transport of sixteen out of twenty patients removed by the Brigade Division to the hospital and elsewhere. The Hon. Superintendent and her assistants would gratefully receive the names of any ladies who would undertake to supply a week's invalid diet during the year or contribute to the funds for the sick poor and they ask members and hon. members to try and find friends who will help in this branch of the work. The statement of accounts showed that the receipts for the year were £22 8s. including £13 14s. in subscriptions and £7 13s. 6d. in donations from borrowers of invalid appliances, and the balance in hand was 6s. 2d.

The Banff District Nursing Association have applied for affiliation with the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and a reply has been received to the effect that the Institute quite approve of the rules, and will be glad to grant affiliation, and that their superintendent, Miss Cowper, will submit the names of such nurses as would be available at the time the association proposed to start work in Banff. The committee resolved to ask Miss Cowper to recommend a nurse as soon as possible.

Last week a deputation from the Glasgow Trades' Council, consisting of Miss Pettigrew and Messrs. M'Kechnie and Ross, were received by the Parish Council, when Mr. M'Kechnie explained the views of his council in regard to the nurses dismissed from the Gartloch Asylum. That dismissal he considered

was arbitrary, especially in a public institution. It was not right that the nurses should not be able to ventilate a grievance without feeling they were liable to dismissal. Discipline was good, but might be carried to tyranny. It might not have been tyranny in this case; but it looked like it. He hoped the nurses would be reinstated in order to give them the opportunity of resigning.

The deputation having retired, the Governor of the Gartloch Committee (Mr. Smith) upheld the doctor's action in dismissing the nurses. In reply to a question as to whether the Committee authorised the doctor to take this step it was pointed out by the chairman that the doctor had the power in his own hands; it was vested in him by a standing order of the Council.

The Round Robin presented by the nurses having been read, Mr. Girvan moved that the dismissed nurses be reinstated. He was informed by the Chairman that his motion was out of order, but that he could gain his end by moving a vote of censure on the doctor; this he was not prepared to do, but expressed the opinion that the doctor had too much power—an opinion with which we cordially agree. Ultimately the Council decided not to reinstate the dismissed nurses, but to do what they could for them elsewhere.

It is to be regretted that the nurses, who had an absolute right to protest against the increased hours did not, in the first instance, forward a petition through the Matron to the Committee of the Asylum, voicing their views, instead of threatening to resign *en masse*. Their cause was a just one, but their methods of drawing attention to it were unfortunate.

The most important point which has come to light in connection with the threatened strike is that the Medical Superintendent at the Gartloch Asylum is invested with summary powers to dismiss members of the nursing staff. These powers should not, in our opinion, be delegated by a public body to any one of its paid officials. The power of such officials should be limited to suspension, the power of dismissal being retained by the employing Council over all its officials. Further, in no case should the discipline of nurses be delegated to the Medical Superintendent, but to the Matron, who should be directly responsible to her Committee or Board for their efficiency.

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