

## The Territorial Force Nursing Service, City and County of London.

Because a "London" trained nurse has most unjustly been elected to supersede as Matron all the devoted women who have built up the great nursing reputation of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, that she should also deprive them, as suggested, of the reward of their patriotism in connection with the Territorial Force Nursing Service would be insufferable.

The authorities at the London Hospital by every means in their power opposed the efficient organisation of this Volunteer Nursing Service; on the other hand, by the advice of their late Matron, the authorities of St. Bartholomew's Hospital gave every encouragement to the Mansion House Committee under the chairmanship of the late Lady Mayoress in organising the scheme, which has been done with the utmost success, owing principally to the fact that the standard for the nursing staff is the highest obtainable—a certificate of three years' training. Moreover, as it has been agreed that No. 1 General Hospital should be staffed entirely from the ancient and only general hospital in the City of London, St. Bartholomew's, it is only just that a lady holding the three years' certificate of this first-class Nursing School should succeed Miss Isla Stewart, to whose keen sense of public duty and warm patriotism so much of the success of the scheme was due.

The Territorial Nursing Service is a volunteer service without remuneration in time of peace, and no economic pressure can therefore be brought to bear upon the nurses who serve in it. If an objectionable Matron were appointed, nothing would be easier for the nurses than to resign.

The Mansion House Committee are to be congratulated that, in electing Miss Cox-Davies, the greatly esteemed Matron of the Royal Free Hospital, to be Principal Matron of No. 1 General Hospital, they have done the right thing. Miss Cox-Davies is a graduate and gold medallist of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has active service during the South African War to her credit, is President by popular election of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, a body of 700 certificated nurses, from which the Territorial staff can be easily selected, and her election has given the very greatest satisfaction to St. Bartholomew's nurses, especially at this crisis in the history of their Nursing School, which has received such unmerited and unjustifiable treatment.

## Quotes from Private Letters.

By PERMISSION.

"What a perfectly unexpected blow, to have this cruel cabal, for so it seems to be, against Miss Stewart, one of the most generous-minded and upright of women, so chivalrous in all her dealings, her words, her very thoughts. I cannot express my repulsion—one can only feel horrified."

"I enclose 5s. for Fund, as we shall never be able to resent such slights as have been cast upon the memory of one of our best and grandest pioneer nurses, Miss Isla Stewart, until we have the power of the State behind our professional standards; there are only two things which nurses should concentrate all their powers to obtain, State Registration and the Vote."

"I would rather be defeated than win by such methods."

"A most degrading business for all concerned."

"The whole thing is as plain as a pike staff, and incredibly mean."

"The honour of the hospital is damaged, the bar sinister across the fine old arms."

A Governor writes: "I could not understand why a Matron was chosen from the London, and supposed there was some special qualification—or some jobbery. It looks as if the latter must indeed be the case. I should like to know, as I daresay many others would, the ins and outs of this extraordinary job. As far as I can help I will."

"The gleam of light that I see is that the day of the emancipation of women is coming fast in England, and when it is here you will for the first time have a protection against the powers of reaction and monopoly."

"If Bart's can't train a Matron for their own hospital, how can they expect other hospital committees to choose a Matron of their training?" (They can't—here comes in the professional damage.—Ed.)

## INTERNATIONAL SYMPATHY.

Sister Agnes Karll, the President of the International Council, writes a letter of deepest sympathy with every nurse certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and congratulates heartily all those graduates who at the Public Meeting made so dignified a protest against so great a wrong, and thus declined to submit to it without protest. "We are used to these bitter injuries in Germany," she writes, "but in liberal England it seems an impossible thing to happen. It is a crying shame to the whole profession, and I find it impossible in a foreign

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)