

for example, that I had once been overheard to say that I did not like "sewing," and that, once upon a time, some patient—whose identity was very curiously forgotten—had said to somebody, who repeated it to somebody else, that I had applied a fomentation which she thought was too hot; a fact—if it be a fact—which it is most remarkable she should not instantly have stated to me. Now that I know the system of *espionage* which prevails, I understand what my real crime has been, and that the comments, which, upon various occasions, I have felt impelled to make concerning the management of the Nursing Department, have rendered me obnoxious to the supreme powers in the Institution. For example, I frankly confess that, on more than one occasion, I described it as little short of criminal that a Probationer should have been sent, every day, direct from erysipelas patients, in Blizard Ward, to assist in nursing a tracheotomy case in Isolation, thus recklessly risking the child's life by the possible conveyance of the erysipelalous poison to the open wound in its throat. I have also expressed my surprise that you should place your employées in houses, in Philpot Street, so destitute of appliances or means of escape in case of fire that, in such an event, a certain number of their lives would almost inevitably be sacrificed. I have also said what I felt about other glaring abuses, but I did not then know that to speak the truth is termed the "greatest disloyalty" at the London Hospital, and is a fatal fault. At the end of an inquiry by you, on December 6th, into various vague generalities, I was given to understand, by you, that I could not return to work in the wards, but that you would direct the Matron to give me a modified certificate, so that I might obtain employment elsewhere. On December 7th, I received the following testimonial, which I contend is contrary to the spirit, if not to the actual letter, of your expressed intention:—

[COPY.]
LONDON HOSPITAL,
WHITECHAPEL ROAD, E.
December 7th, 1892.

In compliance with the instructions of the Committee, I write this in evidence that Miss Mary Eliza Maude Minnie Fisher entered the Training School as a Regular Probationer on May 4th, 1891. She passed a "very satisfactory" examination, coming out ninth on the list for 1892. She has acquired a good technical knowledge of Nursing during this period, but she was reported to the Committee as being untrustworthy as a Nurse.

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After an inquiry before the Committee at her request, the manner in which she had discharged her duties was not considered sufficiently satisfactory to warrant her being allowed to complete her two years' engagement.

E. MURRAY IND, EVA C. E. LÜCKES,
Chairman. Matron.

As it would be manifestly impossible for me to obtain any work upon the strength of this Testimonial; as, in fact, my Nursing career will be ruined—and, I submit, most unjustly—if I allow the matter to rest here; as my character has been defamed, I maintain, without a vestige of justification; as, I presume, you, as the Governing body of the London Hospital, have the power to enforce the execution of your orders to your officials, and do not desire that injustice and wrong should be committed under the cover of your authority; I as a woman, friendless, and dependent upon my exertions for my daily bread, desiring to earn my livelihood by the honourable career of Nursing; to whom you have entrusted the care of sick people for one year and seven months—a strange neglect of the sick poor if I was considered "*untrustworthy*"—I appeal to you for justice. If I have merited dismissal—and, practically, professional ruin—I demand to know why? I make the demand allowed by English equity to the worst criminal, before he is condemned. I demand to know definitely of what I am accused, to be allowed to face my accusers, and to speak in my own defence. If you will not, or cannot, do this, I appeal to you to permit me to complete my remaining five months in the service of the Hospital, and gain my Certificate, and so have a chance of continuing my professional career.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
MARY E. M. FISHER.

LONDON HOSPITAL,
WHITECHAPEL ROAD, E.
December 21st, 1892.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Chairman to inform you that he duly received the packet of papers forwarded by you yesterday, containing your letter of the 19th inst., addressed to the House Committee. This letter was read at the meeting of the Committee held yesterday, and the copies thereof were handed to the members present.

I am, yours faithfully,
G. Q. ROBERTS, *House Governor*.
Miss MARY E. M. FISHER.

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