

and that the consideration of the resolution appointing Miss Hay as Matron be deferred in the meantime."

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For some time past the Health Committee have been considering accusations made concerning the late Matron, and from printed reports it would appear matters have not been conducted in a business-like or even a just manner.

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Mr. Robert Hughes said it was perfectly true that Miss Ainsworth had been a victim on the present occasion, but they wanted to prevent a recurrence of anything of the kind. Charges were made against Miss Ainsworth, and witnesses were called, but Miss Ainsworth was not given an opportunity of being there to defend herself. A sub-committee was appointed to go into the matter, and a large number of charges were brought against Miss Ainsworth in the presence of half a dozen gentlemen in company with the Town Clerk. There was no time for the woman to get up her defence; they asked her to resign, contrary to the advice of the Town Clerk, who thought the case would have been met by a caution.

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Mr. Beynon Harris said there was upon the books of the Corporation a standing resolution that every report of committee should be printed in the minutes. Except from an outside source, he did not think there was any member of the Corporation who had obtained anything definite with regard to the charges against this lady. There being no report in the minutes, they had been kept in the dark as to the transactions in committee. Councillor Jenkins had said that they held an inquiry, and they had a timorous lady walking into the room where were seated gentlemen with the most fierce official expressions. (Laughter). There would be no more appalling sight to him, if he had to be examined, than to see Mr. Jenkins seated in the chair with his spectacles on. (Laughter). Miss Ainsworth had been examined under force of pressure, which was not allowed in law. Miss Ainsworth was told all sorts of things by these gentlemen when she got into the room, and did not deny them, probably in the hope that she would be reinstated.

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Remarks were also made concerning the advisability of appointing Miss Hay, a subordinate to Miss Ainsworth in the Cardiff Sanatorium to the post of Matron. Some of the Council felt that her appointment as Matron was open to criticism.

We have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that under such circumstances, it would be more conducive to future harmony if a complete stranger were appointed to the vacant position of Matron. It is never a satisfactory arrangement to promote an immediately subordinate officer in an Institution where the resignation of the senior official has been more or less a disputed question.

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CONTINUING the discussion on Hospital Nurses, a writer to the *Westminster Gazette* discovers that "Nurses are better off than Governesses and Ladies' Companions." We trust, indeed, that they are so. The traditional governess and companion—and newspaper correspondents deal with the traditional—are in most cases ladies who have received no systematic or complete training that will enable them to get remunerative work. They have usually been put off with the hap-hazard slipshod education that is supposed to fit a woman to become a wife and mother, and circumstances have made it necessary for them to seek work instead. Such women, though in individual cases they might be more highly educated and cultured than the Nurse, are not, from a professional standpoint, to be classed with women who have devoted years of hard work and study to acquiring proficiency and skill in a calling which has a recognised public value.

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Moreover, the plea that one class of educated women is oppressed or handicapped in life is no reason whatsoever that another body of educated women should not attain to a high professional status and high terms of remuneration, if they realize that it is due to them, and are resolved to seek it.

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Instead of levelling down the position of Nurses to that of the domestic governess, we should like to see governess graduates forming themselves into a society for raising their own proficiency and legal status. And in this they might look for the sympathy and co-operation of the mothers of the coming generation, who may, perhaps, learn to be more careful than it has yet occurred to mothers to be in choosing the companions and teachers who are to mould their children's minds and morals.

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THERE seems, indeed, to be just now a wave of feeling amongst domestic women against professional Nurses that is as wrong-headed as it is ungenerous. One cannot withhold a large measure of sympathy for those women who feel that, if circumstances had not chained them to the domestic circle, they could have done good professional work in the branches now opening

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