

St. Olave's Infirmary.

THERE is much truth in the old saying "that it is an ill wind which blows no one any good," and we sincerely hope, therefore, that the new Matron, when at St. Olave's Infirmary, will reap the beneficial result which must inevitably accrue to that Institution from the condemnation of the Guardians by the Local Government Board, concerning their conduct in connection with the mismanagement of the Nursing Department and the resignation of the excellent Matron, Miss Marion M. Evans.

It will be within the memory of our readers that, owing to the conscientious stand made by the Matron of St. Olave's Infirmary against methods on the part of the Guardians which she considered wrong, unjust, and detrimental to the efficiency of the nursing department, she has, for upwards of two years, been subjected to a systematic policy of persecution from those Guardians whose methods of management she was compelled to oppose.

We have been requested to make public the following correspondence, and gladly do so, as we are pleased to observe that the unscrupulous attacks made upon the private character, and also the public work, of Miss Evans, have been repudiated by the Local Government Board, and her courageous conduct in acting according to the dictates of conscience, instead of adopting the usual cowardly course of condoning wrong, has earned for Miss Evans exoneration at the hands of the Local Government Board, and the gratitude and admiration not only of her colleagues, but of her sex in general.

CORRESPONDENCE.

S. Olave's Union,
March 14th, 1896.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Guardians of this Union to inform you that, at their meeting held on the 12th March, 1896, they passed the following resolution:—

"That, having regard to the past history of the Matron of the Infirmary, the general incapacity she has shown in performing her duties, her disobedience of orders of the Guardians, and her want of co-operation with the Visiting Committee in the Administration of the Infirmary, Miss M. M. Evans be requested to forthwith submit to the Guardians her resignation as Matron of the Infirmary."

I am, therefore, directed to request you to forthwith comply with the order contained in the resolution of the Guardians quoted above, and forthwith forward to me your resignation of your office of Matron of the Infirmary, for submission to the Guardians at their Meeting to be held on the 26th March, 1896.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient Servant,
E. PITTS FENTON,
Clerk.

S. Olave's Infirmary,
March 26th, 1896.

MISS EVANS begs to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's letter of the 14th inst., calling upon her to resign the post of Matron, which she has held for six years past.

Miss Evans is extremely sorry that any friction has occurred between herself and the Guardians, it having been her wish to work in entire harmony with them, and her whole efforts having been directed towards the efficient working of the Infirmary. It has been, and will be, her desire to avoid all

friction, and to work in accord with the Visiting Committee and the whole Staff.

The charges of incapacity and disobedience of orders, and the innuendo contained in the reference to past history, in the resolution of the Guardians, make it impossible for Miss Evans to tender her resignation and thus to admit that the charges and innuendo have any foundation.

S. Olave's Union,
March 26th, 1896.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Board of Guardians to inform you that, at their meeting held on this date, they passed the following resolution, viz:—

"That Miss Marion M. Evans, Matron of the Infirmary be, and she is, suspended from the discharge of her duties as Matron of the Infirmary."

Having regard, therefore, to the decision of the Guardians, it becomes necessary for you to forthwith cease to perform any duty at the Infirmary, and to hand to the Medical Officer all *Keys, Books, Papers, Matters and Things* whatsoever relating to, or connected with, your said office of Matron.

Your obedient Servant,
E. PITTS FENTON,
Clerk.

Miss Marion M. Evans.

Local Government Board,
Whitehall, S.W.,
April 10th, 1896.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge your letter of the 27th ultimo, and to inform you that they have received a letter from the Guardians of S. Olave's Union, reporting that they have suspended you from the discharge of your duties as Matron of the Infirmary.

I am directed to enquire whether you have any observations to offer with regard to the statements against you, contained in the Resolution passed by the Guardians on the 12th ultimo, calling upon you to resign.

ALFRED D. BRIANS,
W. ADRIANS,
Assistant Secretary.

Miss Evans,
Matron of St. Olave's Union Infirmary.

S. Olave's Infirmary,
April 16th, 1896.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th April, 1896.

The resolution of the Guardians of S. Olave's Union (12th March, 1896), calling on me to resign the office of Matron, which I have held for six years, embraces general charges against me under four heads, viz:—

- (1) Past history.
- (2) General incapacity.
- (3) Disobedience of orders.
- (4) Want of co-operation with the Visiting Committee in the administration of the Infirmary.

(1) With reference to my past history, I am quite unaware that there is anything in it which will justify any censure from the Guardians, or on account of which I ought to resign my appointment.

(2) As to the charge of general incapacity, I think I may refer to my official record at S. Olave's Infirmary, at Stockport Infirmary, at the Northern Hospital, Liverpool, and at the London Hospital. I must not offer any opinion as to my own capacity, but I refer, without hesitation, to the Medical Superintendent of S. Olave's Infirmary (Dr. A. N. Johnston), to the Committee of the Stockport Infirmary, and to those of the Inspectors of the Local Government Board who have been acquainted with my work.

(3) As to disobedience of the orders of the Guardians, I

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