

we should place on record our views upon the facts of the case, we ventured, before going fully into the matter, to submit the following letter to Mr. Barnardo :—

“ St. Dunstan’s House,
“ Fetter Lane, E.C.

“ May 18, 1889.

“ Dear Sir,—Sister Clara has placed in my hands a voluminous correspondence, extending over a period of some years, and having reference to her appointment under you and your committee in connection with Her Majesty’s Hospital, Stepney.

“ Evidently smarting under the impression that an injustice has been done to her, she has requested me to publish, through the columns of the *Nursing Record*, the whole of such correspondence, and also expresses a wish that I, in my editorial capacity, should adjudicate upon it.

“ To me, personally, the request appears—though likely to involve me in the devotion of a considerable portion of time, which, at the present time, I can ill afford to spare—not altogether unreasonable under the circumstances, particularly as Sister Clara states that her means will not permit her to engage in what might perhaps lead to an expensive litigation. I have expressed my willingness to Sister Clara to do what I can towards elucidating, if possible, the true facts of the case, and giving what I consider to be a perfectly unbiassed opinion upon the whole matter as represented—

“ (1) By the whole correspondence ;

“ (2) By your and your Committee’s and Sister Clara’s statements ;

“ (3) By any means of verification which you, your Committee, and Sister Clara may have at command.

“ I feel confident that this will be an inquiry, as it were, to which you will not have any objection ; indeed, on the contrary, and for the sake of your own reputation, as well as that of Sister Clara’s, you and your Committee will assuredly feel disposed to cordially support and assist me so far as lies in your powers to place the true incidents of the unfortunate affair on record.

“ It is thus I respectfully draw your attention to the proposition which has been made to me, and which I, in the general interests of the Nursing community, feel called upon to accede to.

“ I am, dear Sir,

“ Very truly yours,

“ THE EDITOR.

“ Thos. J. Barnardo, Esq., F.R.C.S.E.”

To which we received the reply as under :—

“ 18 to 26, Stepney Causeway,

“ London, E.

“ 20th May, 1889.

“ Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 18th reached me

this morning, and I hasten to acknowledge its receipt.

“ I am, of course, quite willing to give you or anyone the fullest information that is desired upon any point relating to my action, but I am at present in the dark altogether as to what points you desire to have elucidated. It seems to me, so far as I can judge of the facts, that Sister Clara’s resignation of her post and subsequent departure arose out of a matter of private feeling and arrangement, pure and simple, and that no *principle* affecting general Hospital management or Nursing control is involved. If there be any question in dispute, it can only be as to whether Sister Clara was really entitled to *three months’* notice, or whether I had power to shorten that notice as I did, so that she left me at the expiry of *one month*. But I suppose in that case if I infringed her legal rights she has a remedy, which is neither expensive nor troublesome, and much more direct than through the columns of a magazine. She can sue me in the county court ; the matter will cost her only the trouble of an application, and if she succeeds, I shall have to pay her costs as well as the amount she claims in lieu of notice.

“ To carry this semi-private alleged grievance, whatever it may be—and of this last point I am still in ignorance—into the arena of a paper devoted to Hospital Nursing generally is, I imagine, a much less satisfactory course to adopt.

“ But, as I have said, I am writing in ignorance and do not know what points have to be elucidated. When I hear from you as to this, and how my action can affect the aims and interests of your journal, I will be glad to supply you with any explanation that I can reasonably be expected to offer. At the same time, as I believe Sister Clara has seen you on several occasions during the last few weeks of her stay with me, and has had, as she alleges, the advantage of advice and counsel from you, I can hardly imagine that you would be quite as impartial a judge of the case as you naturally desire to be. Unconsciously you will already have adopted some degree of belief in Sister Clara’s supposed grievances, whatever they may be, and that belief would naturally hinder you from viewing my side of the case with judicial impartiality.

“ There is, moreover, another difficulty in the way of immediately responding to your wish. This week our Annual Meeting occurs, involving me personally from early morning till late at night in labours of a very onerous and varied character, so that I will not have a moment in which to turn aside to the subject of your letter. I am also involved in litigation of a serious character relative to the custody of certain children which is of

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