

at Mr. Barnardo's sudden desire to take such an interest in her work, as well as at the peculiarity of the suggestion, Sister Clara said, "My sister is all that is necessary, as she has proved herself capable in every way, and is quite familiar with the duties." "Oh!" responded Mr. Barnardo, "I want someone of commanding appearance, more experience, and nice looking." However, nothing more came out of this conversation, and Miss Jump still remained on, anticipating that salary which never came.

We may mention here, that, to give an idea of the immense amount of work undertaken, Sister Clara's and Miss Jump's duties consisted of, besides the whole of the superintendence and responsibility of the Institution, consisting of seventy beds, engaging of Nurses and servants, housekeeping, yearly reports of the cases and their nature, the hundred and one duties only too well known by those in charge of Institutions, and the dispensing for close upon a thousand patients, as the medicines for the whole of the town Institutions were dispensed there, amounting to thousands of bottles in the year. We give these facts and figures merely to show that the posts were not altogether sinecures. We may also say that all the linen and like requirements for the new Institution were made by Sister Clara and the staff.

One day, to Sister Clara's further astonishment, she received the following letter:—

"5th April, 1889.

"Dear Sister Clara,—As one of the very first steps in the re-arrangement of the Hospital, I am anxious to appoint a thoroughly efficient housekeeper who would have, of course under the Matron, charge of the household, the servants, the bed and table linen, the food, and all other matters proper to the duties of a housekeeper.

"Now I instinctively feel that the appointment of any other than your sister as housekeeper will be unpleasant to you, and therefore I wish to do nothing until I have first written to you, for I am quite sure it will not do to think even of nominating your Sister for the post. I have a great respect and esteem for her, but I am sure it will not do for her to continue at the Infirmary. There are (1) many prudential reasons for this into which I will not now go. We need a housekeeper much more competent (2) than she is, and one who has had experience in the management of servants, &c., in a large household, and one able to act independently of you (3). Besides this, your sister's delicacy of health (4) must always make her residence in the house with you a matter of anxiety to me, for you naturally, in the event of her delicacy or even temporary indisposition, are so occupied

with her care and anxious on her behalf, that it must greatly increase your anxieties and burdens. In this way, instead of having *two* efficient workers, I really would not have *one*. I have, therefore, come to the conclusion that the right thing will be first to send you this letter so that you may make arrangements for your sister at as early a date as possible, and then, so soon as that is settled, I will try to appoint a lady as housekeeper, of course under you (5).

"Other matters requiring arrangement are the appointment of the Resident Medical Superintendent, the drawing up of regulations for the care and general treatment of the patients; and last, but not least, the organisation of the Nursing Staff, the laying down of principles upon which new Nurses and Probationers will be selected and retained, the position and status of each in the House, their rooms and work. All these I have before me and have drawn up a brief outline of such things as I will like to talk over with you in a few days (6).

"First of all, I feel the matter of the housekeeper and your sister must be settled, and so I think it better not to await the conclusion of *all* my plans, but at once to send off this little note. Hoping you are both quite well, believe me to be, with very kind regards, most faithfully yours,
"THOS. J. BARNARDO.

"Sister Clara,

"Her Majesty's Hospital,

"19, Stepney Causeway."

"P.S.—I need hardly add I would be glad to write or do anything for your sister which might be of service to her, or to reply to any communication which may come to me on her behalf from those with whom she may seek employment. I only wish that we had some vacancy I could offer her, but, alas! we have not.—T. J. B."

Sister Clara's remarks on the above:—

- 1.—Reasons were never given.
 - 2.—Competency of housekeeper was never before questioned; in fact, the "Governor" himself expressed "that the housekeeping could not have been conducted more efficiently."
 - 3.—Mr. Barnardo had evidently sufficient confidence in my Sister, or he would not have requested that the place should never be left without one or the other of us in charge.
 - 4.—Mr. Barnardo apparently overlooked the cause of my Sister's ill-health.
 - 5.—This is rather contradictory to statement No. 3.
 - 6.—Never saw the rules or heard of them again; never had a "talk over" about them.
- Sister Clara acknowledged this somewhat peculiar epistle as follows:—

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