

where they are straight tubes. Now what is the object of this exceptional structure? When the uterus contracts, the spiral coils of the arteries are so compressed by the contractile tissue that surrounds them that the force of the arterial blood current is lessened, coagulation is favoured, and the mouths of the vessels plugged by innumerable thrombi.

(To be continued.)

### MR. BARNARDO AND SISTER CLARA.

SISTER CLARA'S reply is here set out:—

“ May 6, 1889.

“ Dear Dr. Barnardo,—In the paragraph of your letter, page 2, you make an *earnest* protest *against* the conversation which I allege passed between us.

“ On the same page you *admit* having said, ‘ I have a *very suitable* person in my mind.’ You go on to say: ‘ I may have added we need a person as housekeeper who would have a more commanding appearance.’ I am glad to see you do this, as it clearly shows I have not wrongfully made the statement.

“ I am not fighting about the post for my sister, or the remarks made. It is the dishonourable way you have treated her. You most *distinctly* and *decisively* promised her work, and on the strength of the promises made to her she has not sought work elsewhere; and now you seek to turn her off without any compensation whatever.

“ How could I do else than resign? My turn might come next; and it is always better to give a resignation voluntarily than to be *requested* to do so. The former has been done by me with the *deepest* regret. I would add that *three months'* notice was the *verbal agreement* between us, it being the Hospital rule for *Matrons*.

“ My answer to the paragraph of your letter (page 3) is precisely as you yourself have taken it to be.

“ Faithfully yours,

“ SISTER CLARA.”

This is acknowledged by Mr. Barnardo in three sheets of foolscap, adorned with *another* postscript.

“ 18, Stepney Causeway,

“ London, E.

“ May 6, 1889.

“ Dear Sister Clara,—I never, for one moment, denied that I gave your sister, not a pledge, but a half promise<sup>(1)</sup> that I would try to find her some work to do; and no doubt if your relations and mine had been amicable, I would have fulfilled that promise. But *I never intended to give<sup>(2)</sup> her work in the Infirmary*; and that is the only

point I wished clearly to establish in my preceding letters.

“ It is a promise to do this that you have, apparently, charged me with breaking. I am glad now to know that you do *not* imply that I had failed in any promise to employ your sister as the Housekeeper at the Hospital, for my memory is clear and distinct on this point that I have always felt, especially within the last three years, that it would be better for you both if your sister was employed in some work not actually in the same house, or under your superintendence.<sup>(3)</sup>

“ But such a promise, of course, falls to the ground in view of the relations which your recent communications have established; and you will, doubtless, now see how wrong you have been throughout; for my first letter to you—which has excited this correspondence—was simply upon the subject of the Housekeeper at the Hospital. That letter drew out your protest on behalf of your sister, and so the correspondence grew.<sup>(4)</sup>

“ Thus you have sent in your resignation on the score of a *grievance* which turns out to be *no grievance*; and you have, as I consider, in a most improper manner, sought to influence your subordinates, so that—I understood from Mr. Cannan, but not from you—they, or some of them, placed their<sup>(5)</sup> resignation in your hands on or before the 12th of April.

“ Now, with regard to yourself,<sup>(6)</sup> I have nothing whatever to do with any ‘ *Hospital rule for Matrons*,’ and I decline to be bound by anything, except my own contract, *entered into with you*,<sup>(7)</sup> in writing; and *I am satisfied*, from a careful perusal of all our letters written at the time when you came to me, that I did not undertake to give you three months' notice, or required the same from you. In harmony with this, I have regularly paid you by *monthly cheque*.<sup>(8)</sup>

“ I am free to admit that, having been with me for five years, and having for a large part of that time—notwithstanding the peculiar spirit and temper you exhibited, even in your earliest letters—had my confidence and esteem, I would have been willing to have made any concession which would convenience you, and have allowed you three months, or four months, or even six months' notice, if the same could be done without altogether injuring our work. But, in view of your recent letters, especially in view of your action towards the Nurses and Probationers in the Hospital—which I cannot characterise as anything but a breach of honour, and as a betrayal of your trust, utterly unworthy of you as a Christian, and as one occupying a responsible position—I have now no alternative but to insist

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