Statement on Behalf of the Nursing Staff *re* Ruchill Hospital.

A statement signed: D. W. Roberts, Hon. Secretary, Nurses' Defence Association, has been issued on behalf of the nurses who gave evidence, and those who offered to give evidence (over one hundred in number), before the Sub-Committee on Hospitals, in connection with Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow, on December 12th.

It appears that, when this Committee resolved to hold an Inquiry, notices were posted in the Nurses' Dining Room, signed by Mr. J. Lindsay, Town Clerk Depute. The first issued on the 9th December, 1907, announced that the Committee would be prepared to receive any statement from any Sister or Nurse regarding the carrying out of the work of the Hospital, and the second on 11th December was as follows: "In connection with the Inquiry above referred to, the Committee on Hospitals would explain that any Sisters or Nurses resolving to make any statement to the Committee at the Inquiry to be held by them *may rest assured that their appearance before the Committee and the making of such statements shall in no way prejudice their respective positions in the Service.*"

It is necessary to emphasise this point, because the nurses allege in their statement that, "at a recent meeting of that Committee, Councillor W. F. Anderson (the Chairman) while urging the retention of the Matron, proposed *that she should be instructed to dismiss what he termed 'the Ringleaders of the Nurses,'* that is to say, those nurses who, in response to the invitation of the Committee, and under their promise of protection, dared to give evidence against the Matron and to speak the truth about her."

It is impossible to believe that the Committee, after the definite undertaking which it gave to the nurses, should go back on its word. It is very much scarcely credible that any individual member should suggest its doing so.

The nurses, in their statement, declare that when those of their number who gave evidence were being examined by the Sub-Committee, "Mr. W. F. Anderson invited them to speak freely and frankly, as they were under the absolute protection of the Committee, and, being reassured in this way, the evidence given was of the most frank and open nature." They assert that it soon "became apparent to several of the nurses who had given evidence that the undertaking given by the Committee was not being respected," and they "entered a formal protest," in which they stated that not only the Matron's manner, but "her words, were such as to indicate our positions here were now seriously prejudiced, and, in one instance, resignation was hinted at by the Matron." They state further that "since the Inquiry was held the Matron has not recognised several of those Sisters and nurses who gave evidence before the Commissioners, including the Assistant Matron, Miss Masson, and in every way she has made it unpleasant for them by taking every opportunity of finding fault."

The nurses who gave evidence ask:—

Have their complaints not been established?

Has under-staffing not been prevalent?

Have they spoken anything but the truth, as found by the Commissioners?

Is it because they spoke the truth, and let the public know how the nurses were treated at Ruchill by the Matron that they are to be classed as ringleaders and dismissed?

What about the promise given them by the Committee? Are they to be treated worse than *socii criminis*, who becoming King's evidence, are promised and receive absolute protection for giving evidence?

They draw attention to the finding of the Commissioners:—"They (i.e., the Commissioners) are satisfied that during considerable periods of the year 1907 the hospital, in whole or in part, was seriously understaffed, and we (i.e., the Commissioners) are satisfied that, notwithstanding the strain, they (the nurses) did their duty faithfully and well."

It remains for the Committee to respect its promise.

Appointments.

MATRON.

St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury, Suffolk.—Miss Ethel F. Beloe has been appointed Matron. She was trained at Guy's Hospital, London, and has temporarily held the position of Matron at the Purley Cottage Hospital, Surrey.

SISTERS.

Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary.—Miss M. Greaves has been appointed Sister of the Women's and Children's Wards. She was trained at the Royal Hospital, Sheffield, and has held the position of Staff Nurse and Sister at the Jessop Hospital, Sheffield.

Mill Lane Hospital, Liscard, Cheshire.—Miss Olive Dougherty has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Preston, and in infectious nursing at the North Binley Joint Hospital, Cleckheaton, after which she held a post at the Norwich Fever Hospital, and also obtained private nursing experience in connection with the Chesterfield Nursing Home. In 1906 she returned to the Binley Joint Hospital, Cleckheaton, where she has since held the position of Charge Sister.

Ancoats Hospital, Manchester.—Miss W. Beckett has been appointed Out-patient Sister. She was trained at the General Infirmary, Huddersfield, and has held the positions of Staff Nurse at the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne, and of Charge Nurse at the West Hartlepool Hospital. She has also had experience of private nursing.

Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children and Women.—Miss E. Carruthers has been appointed Sister of the Medical Corridor. She was trained at the Cardiff Infirmary, and has held the position of Night Charge Nurse at St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children, Plaistow, and of Sister of the Medical Wards and Diphtheria Block at the Children's Hospital, Birmingham.

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