

"Among other impertinences she refused to give me any information regarding the uniform, she was wearing beyond the fact that she got it from the house steward."

Dr. Johnston wrote a polite reply, trusting that matters might yet be settled amicably, and desiring Miss Landles to bring Miss Wilson to his room that he might become conversant with details. To this Miss Landles replied, in part, on February 9th:—"You may interview Miss Wilson if you please, but I absolutely refuse to hold any communication with her whatever. She has set me at defiance. She must now take the consequence. I have, however, no objection to the matter being referred to the Hospital Committee—indeed, as it seems unlikely we shall agree on the subject I think this will be the better course."

From Dr. Johnston's report to the Hospitals Committee it appears that Miss Wilson, who receives her uniform from the hospital, was furnished with a remnant of material supplied to the servants in the old hospital many years ago. When this hospital was closed, in 1901, a remnant was brought to Ruchill, and used for uniforms for domestic servants in the hospital. The piece given to Miss Wilson had lain in the sewing-room of the hospital for the past seven years.

Dr. Johnston regarded the matter as a practical joke, or a display of spitefulness calculated to humiliate Miss Wilson. At first he did not credit the Matron with any knowledge of the affair. Miss Wilson's work and conduct having been perfectly satisfactory, he did not feel justified in summarily dismissing her without an opportunity of stating any defence she had to offer.

#### MISS WILSON PRACTICALLY A PRISONER.

In a further report, on February 16th, Dr. Johnston states that the Matron's charge of "gross insolence" against Miss Wilson fell to the ground, as when examined by him she was unable to recall an insolent word or action of Miss Wilson's.

He adds:—"The authority of the Matron over the female staff has to be maintained and supported in the interests of discipline; but in this case it appears to me that to support the Matron would have been an act of injustice to Miss Wilson. The Matron's manner of addressing Miss Wilson was, to say the least of it, autocratic; her refusal when requested to bring Miss Wilson before me was an act of insubordination; and her action in sending Miss Wilson to her room and keeping her practically a prisoner there from Tuesday, the 9th, to Monday, the 15th inst., was an act of tyranny as well as a breach of the rules of the hospital. I have to-day re-instated Miss Wilson in her position, and recommended the Matron to express to Miss Wilson a sense of regret for her treatment of her."

Miss Landles subsequently apologised to the Hospitals Committee "for having assumed a power which it seems I have not, when I asked Miss Wilson to go to her room until Dr. Johnston had given his decision."

It is high time that the scandalous autocracy assumed by the Matron over the female staff should cease, and we hope that the citizens of Glasgow will pursue the only course by which necessary reform can be effected.

## The Association of Nursing Superintendents of India.

### ANNUAL REPORT.

The Association of Nursing Superintendents of India held their Annual Conference at the Y. W. C. A. Institute, Bombay, on December 10th, when a very full programme came before them for consideration.

There were two business sessions, and the evening had been set aside for an "At Home," to which the Nursing Superintendents and Staff nurses of the Bombay Hospitals, several private nurses, doctors, and other friends interested in nursing were invited.

This had to be abandoned at the last moment owing to the death of Lady Clarke, wife of the Lieutenant Governor of Bombay, which took place on the evening of the 9th.

The first session opened at 11 a.m.

After the President's address and Secretary and Treasurer's reports, the following new members were elected:—

*Active*—Miss Gautrey, Superintendent of Nursing, Baptist Zenana Hospital, Bhiwani, Punjab; Miss Roughton, Superintendent of Nursing, C. M. S. Hospital, Amritsar, Punjab; Miss Sinclair, Superintendent of Nursing, United Free Church Mission Hospital, Royampuram, Madras; Miss Tudball, Lady Superintendent, Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad, Bombay; and Miss Wright, Superintendent of Nursing, Kinnaird Hospital, Lucknow, U. P.

*Associate*—Miss Walters, Assistant Lady Superintendent, St. George's Hospital, Bombay.

Miss Grant, Superintendent of Nursing, Duchess of Teck's Hospital, Patna, was elected on the Executive Committee in place of Miss Allen.

### MEMBERSHIP.

Mrs. Klosz, who as Miss Etha Butcher was Superintendent of Nursing in the Hoyte Memorial Hospital, Jhansi, and one of the first members of the association, sent the following question to be considered and voted on:—

"The status of those who at one time were Active Members, but by having severed their connection with hospital work are not now properly included in either class of members, Active or Associate."

Mrs. Klosz was in favour of retaining as Active Members those who had once been admitted as such, as long as they desire to pay their fees and keep up their connection with the Association." She admitted the possibility, but not a probability, of "the Association having at some time a majority of Active Members who were not Nursing Superintendents."

She did not think it desirable that Nursing Superintendents who sometimes leave hospital and take up private nursing for a year or two should forfeit their membership for this time.

It was pointed out that if those who had retired from hospital work were allowed to retain their membership they would be eligible to hold office and to act on the Executive Committee, and it

*previous page*

*next page*