

An Incredible Injustice.

There is always consolation—when one has suffered an unmerited wrong—in having public opinion recognise the injury, and offer unsolicited its hearty condolence, and that the appointment of Matron and Superintendent of Nursing made last Thursday by the authorities of St. Bartholomew's Hospital is stigmatised throughout the nursing community as "an incredible injustice," and that genuine sympathy is felt for every nurse certificated in the school is some solace for those women who have suffered unmerited affront. On the 'phone and through the post messages and letters have poured into this office, and all express indignation at the cruel slur which the new appointment reflects on the life's work of a much respected dead colleague, and realise the professional injury to every woman trained and certificated in the nursing school to which she literally devoted her life.

SACRILEGE.

Some day perhaps, but not now, we may touch reverently on those last conscious hours when Death was very near our dear Isla Stewart. This only will we say—if she recognised the Shadow, to her last conscious hour she ignored it with the sublime courage and dignity she maintained throughout the two years she was a-dying. Did she suffer in silence and alone as acutely as those who loved her and saw her fading away? We shall never know, but this we do know—as she lived so she died, strong and dutiful, and that for all the 23 years during which she held office as Matron and Superintendent of Nursing at Royal "Bart's" its honour was the breath of her nostrils.

Whence then emanates this insidious breath of slander, calculated to defame the dead? That her work was not well done, her nursing staff insubordinate, that her pupils are unfit to succeed her in office, and who jeered forth that parrot cry throughout the hospital world: "No Bart's nurse need apply"?

It is an open secret that prominent anti-registrationists have used all the influence they possess to capture what is mistakenly considered the stronghold of State Registration, for a London Hospital candidate.

Apparently they have succeeded.

Are cruel wrongs ever effected by righteous methods?

Never.

Tyranny does not hesitate to crush the living, why consider the reputation of the dead?

Power is no longer held by skeleton hands.

Power is to the living.

Grasp it.

THE FATES PROPITIOUS.

But even this devious diplomacy could not have succeeded had the authorities of St. Bartholomew's Hospital loyally supported the indisputable claims of their own Nursing Staff.

In no hospital until recent years have the official relations between the secretarial and nursing departments been more harmonious in character, or the discipline more excellent.

We regret that circumstances have altered these desirable relations.

The widely circulated statement that "the Sisters are not in hand," and that it is necessary that a stranger should rule over them and "bring them to their proper level" is, we opine, merely the retort courteous.

A serious breach of discipline within the walls has occurred, and that certain Sisters, bitterly resenting the cruel anxiety its continuance caused their dying Matron, took action is also true. But in placing before the Treasurer facts which for the honour of the Hospital they considered it right that he should know they acted from a sense of public duty, and were in no sense "insubordinate."

Their action incurred resentment, and every woman certificated in the School has been called upon to pay the penalty.

NO BART'S NURSE NEED APPLY.

To fill an office of the utmost responsibility, that of a Matron and Superintendent of Nursing of one of the largest general hospitals in the Metropolis, the following advertisement appeared:—

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL. OFFICE OF MATRON AND SUPERINTENDENT OF NURSING.

Notice is hereby given that an Election Committee will be held on the 26th May, 1910, to elect a MATRON and SUPERINTENDENT of NURSING to this Hospital.

Candidates must be Certificated Nurses, and of an age not exceeding 40 years.

The salary of the office will be £250 per annum, with board, residence, attendance, and washing.

Candidates are required to lodge 36 copies of their application and testimonials with the Clerk, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, from whom further information may be obtained, on or before the 7th May.

No candidate for the office shall, either directly or indirectly, canvass any member of the Committee or any Governor.

THOMAS HAYES,
Clerk.

It will be observed that no time of training is defined for which the "certificate" should be awarded. No further qualifications are

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