

Quotes from Private Letters.

BY PERMISSION.

"As Bart's nurses are the only nurses in a leading London Hospital who cannot apparently expect promotion from the authorities, why train there?"

"The London Hospital people are coming in for a good bit of adverse criticism over this Bart's business, but believe me, I prefer their protection of pupils to the disloyal lack of appreciation at Bart's."

"What do the Bart's staff consider their Sisters and nurses—sort of glorified ward maids?"

"Nothing injures a hospital so much as a nursing row. Guy's and the London suffered for years after their flare-ups in '79 and '91."

"Some of our women (St. Thomas's) were in for the post. I am truly thankful (and I should think they are) that they did not get it—it is so rough on Bart's."

"Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad—a most crazy affair."

"Several of my husband's family have been trained at Bart's. He thinks the selection most unjust, and considers if Bart's can't train a Matron in twenty-three years, the sooner its Nursing School is shut up the better. If he did not know to the contrary from personal experience, he would, of course, conclude that the medical staff are dissatisfied with the nursing. This is what is so injurious to the status of the School."

"I am not a Bart's nurse, but I revered Miss Isla Stewart, and am boiling over this business. I hope a public inquiry will be held, and then we shall get to the bottom of it. No more consultations with Bart's men for my husband, and let every Bart's nurse married to a doctor influence her husband in like manner."

"Every nurse respected Miss Isla Stewart, and her own nurses loved her. I warmly approve of all the President of our League said at the meeting on Monday, especially that the protection of the standard for which the certificate stands was a trust to Bart's nurses from their late beloved Matron."

"I had not the pleasure of knowing the late Miss Isla Stewart, but as a medical woman had followed her wonderfully inspiring influence in the nursing world. With our Gracious King, many professional women realise what a great power for good she was, as a personal influence in the hospital."

"In life no one did more for the uplifting of nursing, and the care of the sick than our late dear Matron, and the indignity she has suffered in death will probably arouse the necessary

energy to land the Registration Bill—a measure of reform she had so much at heart—right on to the Statute Book."

"This war on nursing standards should result in impressing Parliament with the necessity of defining one, the sooner the better."

"This appointment has affronted our inner conscience. It proves the contemptuous indifference of men to the right of women to conscientious convictions, or why is the noble woman so tenacious of the personal rights of her subordinates, to be superseded by a woman from a school of thought so diametrically different? What Bart's nurses consider *right*, London nurses are represented to consider *wrong*. It is an act of great tyranny to place a community of working women under the authority of a person whose opinions are so strongly antagonistic to what they feel to be right. The publicity of the affront adds to its cruelty."

"There can be but one end to this struggle. Liberty of conscience and speech must be conceded to hospital nurses, and recent events have proved that protection from coercion can only be guaranteed to the workers through just laws."

The Inspired Press.

The *Westminster Gazette*, a paper which may be regarded in every nursing controversy as the partisan supporter of London Hospital politics, has, we learn, aroused a sense of justifiable indignation at St. Bartholomew's Hospital by its inspired article on the burning question of the Matron's appointment. This paper announces that "those best qualified to speak for the feelings of the nurses are emphatic in their assertion that the new Matron will have at her command a thoroughly loyal and devoted staff." Bart's nurses have authorised no one to "speak for their feelings" which—in loyalty to the high standard of their Training School of their devotion to their hospital, and their deep and sincere love for and gratitude to their dear dead Matron, they will express for themselves—with all due regard to the good discipline they have always maintained—at the right time—in the right quarter.

The Defence of Nursing Standards Committee.

(The St. Bartholomew's Hospital Three Years' Certificate.)

Mrs. Shuter, as Hon. Secretary of the above Committee, has forwarded, as directed by the Resolutions passed at the Public Meeting on Monday, June 6th, a copy of the Resolutions to

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