

of the Leeds Hospital for Women and Children that during the coming year, in conjunction with the general infirmary and dispensary, to appoint an Almoner for six months as an experiment, with a view to seeing how much work could be organised.

The Salford Guardians have, with the concurrence of the Local Government Board, decided to appoint a Medical Superintendent at the Hope Hospital, Salford, with two Assistant Medical Officers.

By a printer's error in dropping a line of a footnote attached to an article on "Neurasthenia from a Nurse's Point of View," read before the Canadian Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, which we recently printed, it thus omits to state that the article had appeared in the *Canadian Nurse*, the official organ of the Society. With such a crop of lay nursing journals making money out of nurses, the official organs cannot be too particular in clinging tenaciously to their own property.

Unfortunately the signature "V. R." was dropped out recently in the same manner from an article by our Dublin correspondent.

Legal Matters.

KENEALY *versus* LORD NORTHCLIFFE AND THE ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS, LTD.

The action brought by Miss Annesley Kenealy, a lady journalist of distinction, as well as a trained nurse, who has held appointments both in this country and in America, against Lord Northcliffe and the Associated Newspapers, Ltd., for breach of contract and damages for wrongful dismissal, was full of live interest. The case was heard in the King's Bench Division before Mr. Justice Darling and a special jury. In the first place, the fact that Miss Kenealy conducted her case in person aroused great interest, and no one could listen to the way in which she opened and conducted it without realising that the legal disability which at present disbars women is an unjust one, and that the talent necessary to successful practice is not the sole prerogative of the sex to which such practice is at present restricted. Throughout, Miss Kenealy showed great legal acumen, and her melodious voice and polished diction made her speeches a pleasure to hear, so that Mr. Rufus Isaacs, K.C., counsel for the defence, was compelled to admit that the lady had advantages which the other sex did not possess.

Miss Kenealy, who obviously throughout the case was suffering from a sense of injustice, claimed that she had been appointed co-editor with Lord Northcliffe of a "Humanities Department" in the *Daily Mail*, a department with which subject she was well qualified to deal. This the defendants denied, declaring that no such department was ever created, and that the articles which appeared in the paper written by Miss Kenealy were ordinary contributions, and paid for as such. Certain it is that she contributed articles on Prison Children and other subjects which would fall under this heading; that she visited the London Hospital, and wrote articles calling attention to the

maternity work at that hospital on Lady Derby's Baby Bundles, Eight Hundred Slum Babies ask for help, and others; and that their financial value to the London Hospital was so important that the Committee passed her a special vote of thanks.

Miss Kenealy, who had no written contract with the defendants, alleged that after her visit to the London Hospital, where the Chairman, the Hon. Sydney Holland, elicited from her that she had anti-vivisection views, of which he subsequently complained to Lord Northcliffe—a charge denied on oath by Mr. Holland in the witness-box—she was in effect summarily dismissed by being "frozen out," which was, she alleged, a method by which undesired members of the staff were got rid of in the *Daily Mail* office. This, again, was denied by Lord Northcliffe. The moral clearly is, that journalists should have their contracts in writing, and should carefully file them.

That correspondence did pass between Lord Northcliffe and Mr. Sydney Holland is evident from the unfortunate comment on Miss Kenealy's appearance, when she visited the London Hospital, in the "ocular communication," disclosed by Lord Northcliffe, with apparent reluctance, upon the direction of the Judge, Mr. Justice Darling. Lord Northcliffe then said his impression was that Mr. Holland wrote: "Why did you send this old Guy Fawkes down to worry me?"

The letter was certainly not written for dissection in the cold atmosphere of a law court, and it seems a pity that its contents should ever have been divulged there. We are not surprised that Miss Kenealy's sense of humour did not agree with that of Mr. Holland.

Certainly, however, such a remark must be prejudicial to a woman worker when made to her employer by the Chairman of a hospital whom she is sent to interview, and in the witness-box Mr. Holland admitted that he regretted the expression he had used as to her personal appearance. He did not mean to harm Miss Kenealy, and it was quite untrue to say that he said he would get her dismissed. The plaintiff then inquired whether Mr. Holland thought it kind to represent her to her employer as an ugly valentine, or a music-hall artiste.

Pressed by Miss Kenealy to explain what he meant in his letter to Lord Northcliffe, Mr. Holland said that she was overdressed, that she was wearing the biggest hat he had ever seen, a considerable sized wig, and an immense amount of jewellery. On Miss Kenealy's asserting that she hardly possessed any jewellery, Mr. Holland retorted that she must have borrowed it.

All of which shows the disadvantage under which a lady journalist labours if her taste in dress does not coincide with that of her clientèle, for an eccentricity of dress in a male interviewer would certainly not have elicited similar comment.

Asked by the Judge if she had not vivisected Mr. Holland enough, Miss Kenealy replied: "My Lord, it seems to me that he has vivisected me as very few women have been vivisected in a public court."

A dramatic moment occurred when the Court adjourned at midday, and two of Miss Kenealy's

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