

conduct of this State-supported military hospital, to formulate their charges against Miss Tubbs, so that she may have an opportunity of defending her moral and professional reputation, which is impugned by their present procedure.

Should the War Office refuse our earnest petition for the retention of Miss Tubbs' services, until such time as it has made an independent investigation into the whole circumstances of her dismissal, we intend to emphasize our indignation at the manner in which she has been treated by leaving the hospital the day she is ejected.

In speaking from the chair on the resolution, Mrs. Fenwick stated:—"I am presiding at this meeting as a British taxpayer, and heartily support the Resolution, which incorporates a Petition to the Secretary of State for War, who in my opinion is ultimately responsible for the efficient control of all Military Auxiliary Hospitals, subsidized by the State, and for the protection of the nursing staffs from autocratic and unjust treatment by their Committees. Every criminal is considered innocent until he is proved guilty, and the Committee of this military hospital have no right to condemn public servants without stating of what they are accused, and affording them an opportunity of meeting those accusations.

"The first thing to do is to appeal to the War Office, as the Resolution states, for an independent investigation, so that professional nurses with high qualifications, working in Military Auxiliary Hospitals, may know what protection is afforded them by this State Department.

"I consider it highly dangerous that the professional and personal reputation of trained nurses should be at the mercy of a Committee of a State Institution, who are not responsible to any authority for the conduct of business, or for the economic conditions imposed upon the nursing staff. I claim that the War Office is responsible for the just treatment of all nurses working in Military Auxiliary Hospitals subsidized by the State, and I advise that you appeal personally, by deputation, to the Secretary of State for War in this matter."

After further discussion, the Resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously. It was ultimately agreed that a deputation of the Sisters should deliver a copy of the Resolution to the Secretary of State for War, and to the Under Secretary of State for War, under whose ultimate authority the Army Medical Department is responsible for the treatment of the sick and wounded in war.

This was agreed to, and as none of the Sisters had on any previous occasion taken part in a

deputation to any Government Department, Miss Margaret Breay, who has had wide experience of the procedure necessary, consented to take charge of it.

On Thursday in last week, in conformity with the resolutions passed at the meeting, two of the Senior Sisters, accompanied by Miss Breay, proceeded to the War Office, where they were courteously received, and after presenting their papers, it was arranged that representatives of the nursing staff should be received by Mr. H. J. Tennant, Under Secretary of State for War.

The following is the covering letter which accompanied the resolution sent by the Sisters to Lord Kitchener, a copy of which was also sent to Mr. H. J. Tennant. It is signed by all the Senior Sisters.

Endsleigh Palace Hospital for Officers,
Endsleigh Street,
London, W.C.

14th October, 1915.

TO FIELD MARSHAL THE RIGHT HON. EARL KITCHENER OF KHARTOUM, K.G., K.P., G.C.B., O.M., SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR.

MY LORD.—We, the undersigned Senior Sisters of the Nursing Staff of the Endsleigh Palace Hospital for Officers, beg to enclose to you a copy of a Resolution passed unanimously by a representative meeting of the Nursing Staff of the aforesaid hospital yesterday, Wednesday, October 13th, 1915.

We most earnestly petition your Lordship to give consideration to our request that an investigation may be held into the serious disciplinary matter, affecting every member of the Staff, to which our Resolution refers.

We are,

Your Lordship's obedient servants,

JULIA EVANS,
EMILY S. CAMM,
ELLA TAYLOR,
MARIA B. ILLINGWORTH,
JEANNETTE E. HUGHES,
MARY A. HOLLELY.

Senior Sisters.

The deputation was composed of Miss J. E. Hughes and Miss M. B. Illingworth (certs. Guy's Hospital), Miss E. Taylor (cert. London Hospital), Miss Mary A. Hollely (cert. St. Thomas' Hospital), and Miss E. S. Camm (cert. West London Hospital), *Senior Sisters*; and Miss D. Bolton (cert. St. Thomas' Hospital), and Miss M. Bailey, *Junior Sisters*.

Mr. H. J. Tennant received the Sisters with the utmost courtesy and kindness, and listened sympathetically to the statement of their chief spokeswoman, Miss Hughes, and to their request that the charges made, and the whole circumstances of the dismissal of Miss Tubbs,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)