

building by 2 o'clock on Saturday, as the new Matron and staff would then come on duty. A considerable crowd assembled to see their departure, which was quite quietly accomplished, for having done their duty in making an effective protest against the indefensible manner in which the Matron had been discharged, the staff had no desire for a popular demonstration. They therefore quietly bid goodbye to the orderlies, and entered the waiting taxis. Miss Tubbs was carrying a lovely bouquet of pink roses, presented to her by the members of the Voluntary Aid Detachment working in the hospital, who were withdrawn by their Commandant, and left with the Matron.

We note that Sir Archibald Williamson, Chairman of the Hospital, has "authoritatively informed" certain organs in the press that the Committee "decided to dispense with the Matron's services," and that he "personally told Miss Tubbs the reason for her dismissal, that there was slackness and laxity in the hospital . . . that it is not unnatural that some of the nurses preferred laxity."

Thus the chairman of the hospital acknowledges that the Committee did not send for the Matron, and inform her of what she was accused, and that he personally, without witnesses, made invidious reflections upon her conduct and management, and has not hesitated to attack "some of the nurses" in the press.

In refutation of Sir Archibald Williamson's unchivalrous treatment of these professional women, let us turn to the Statement to the Assistant Director of Medical Service, signed by every sick officer in the Endsleigh Palace Hospital, and to the personal opinion of Lady Emily Lutyens, who has worked with the nursing staff from the inception of the hospital.

#### MEMORIAL FROM SICK AND WOUNDED OFFICERS.

The following memorial, signed by fifty-two officers, patients in the Endsleigh Palace Hospital, has been sent by them to the Assistant Director of Medical Service. As a large number of patients were discharged last week, it means that, practically, the signature of every patient in the building is appended.

#### TO THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICE.

"We, the undersigned, have heard with great regret that the Sisters of Endsleigh Palace Hospital have resigned in a body.

"We, of course, do not know the details of the case, but those of us who have soldiered for many years know how, on many occasions, we have known and realised the devotion and loyalty of the Sisters to their patients. We feel certain that it must be some strong motive which prompted such an action.

"We respectively beg to point out that during our stay here the kindness and attention shown us by the Nursing Staff has been beyond all praise. Not only to our certain knowledge have they given up their spare time to look after us, but every want and every wish has been gratified. Kindness and patience beyond words have been shown.

"Those of us—of whom there are many—who are helpless in bed, and will be for some time, feel that to change our Nursing Sisters at this stage is to handicap our chance of recovery.

"Strange faces and new methods at this time is not a prospect we look forward to with equanimity. Without at all embroiling ourselves in the dispute we respectfully beg to point out that the welfare of the sick and wounded, and the effective management of a hospital of this character absolutely demands the fullest and most searching inquiry at the earliest opportunity.

"We feel sure that the matter will have your earliest attention, and its importance is our excuse for addressing you. It is hard, if not impossible, for us to believe that persons who have so devotedly served us can be in the wrong, and it appears a great injustice is being done to them."

#### THE PERSONAL EVIDENCE OF LADY EMILY LUTYENS.

In an interview with Lady Emily Lutyens, who has worked in a domestic capacity with Miss Tubbs and the nursing staff since the hospital was opened, we learned that in her opinion nothing could exceed their devotion to duty. The houses now occupied as the hospital were in a very dirty condition when taken over for their present purpose, and the nurses worked unceasingly, cleaning and scrubbing to get them thoroughly clean and in order, and fit to receive the sick and wounded. Lady Emily, who has left the hospital (to which she has been a very good friend), owing to the manner in which the Matron and nursing staff have been treated, considers that expert nursing opinion should be available on committees entrusted with the control of military auxiliary hospitals, as unprofessional people are ignorant of nursing etiquette, and know nothing of controlling a professional nursing staff—an expression of opinion with which the nursing profession will heartily agree.

Further evidence in support of the respect in which the Matron and nursing staff were held by those who worked with them, is forthcoming in the withdrawal of the members of the Voluntary Aid Detachment working in the hospital, the majority of whom warmly resented the unproved aspersions so cruelly cast upon the reputation of the nursing staff.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)