

As far as can be gathered from the letter of the Public Assistance Officer at Maidstone, you have instructed him to deprive Miss Brownlow of her office apparently without the opportunity of defence, and you have terminated her responsibility as Matron from July 1st, practically depriving her of an honourable professional position.

The financial arrangement to pay £500 annually to Miss Brownlow of public money until further notice or until she takes up other employment would appear to be unjustifiable, as she maintains that her removal is indefensible.

My Council therefore wishes to enter the strongest protest against what it considers the most unjustifiable treatment of Miss Brownlow, and according to the present arrangement, waste of public money.

My Council will be obliged if in reply to this letter you will state what is to be done to render justice to this public servant, against whom no definite accusations of neglect of duty have been proved, nor any investigation made into the intolerable treatment to which she has been subjected by the dual control of the nursing department arranged by the Ministry of Health.

Awaiting an early reply to this communication.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

ALICE STEWART BRYSON,
Secretary.

REPLY FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

July 28th, 1941.

MADAM,

I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to your letter of July 9th and to state that the difficulties which arise in connection with the administration of the Farnborough Hospital have for a considerable time caused him concern.

The scope and function of that hospital, which is an important unit in the scheme for the treatment of casualties, is substantially different from that at the time when an enquiry was held in 1938, and the Minister has been concerned with the efficient administration of the hospital. The appointment of a Superintendent Matron was made as long ago as December, 1939, but experience has shown that the arrangements then made were not satisfactory, and the Minister reached the decision after very full consideration of reports of information available as to the administration of the hospital, and after a personal interview with the Superintendent Matron and Miss Brownlow, that other arrangements must be made.

The Minister feels, no doubt, that the action which he has taken under powers conferred upon him in Defence Regulation 32 is justified and necessary in the administration of the Institution as an Emergency Hospital.

I am to point out, however, that Miss Brownlow has not been deprived of her office or her emoluments.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. NEVILLE.

The Secretary,
The British College of Nurses,
19, Queen's Gate,
London, S.W.7.

The fact remains that Miss Brownlow has been evicted from the hospital, and is thus deprived of her office without a public investigation, by the Minister of Health, pre-

sumably upon private and unproved evidence. We call upon him to make public the evidence on which he has acted, the result of which is the condemnation of a public official without trial.

We are informed that Miss Brownlow's solicitor is in communication with the Minister of Health.

AN INACCURATE AND UNJUSTIFIABLE CLAIM.

The following letter by direction of the Council has been addressed to the President and Council of the Royal College of Nursing:—

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

19, QUEEN'S GATE, LONDON, S.W.7.

July 9th, 1941.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL,
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING,
1a, Henrietta Place, W.1.

MADAM,

At a recent meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses held on Wednesday, July 2nd, the attention of the members was called to two statements which appeared in the Official Organ of the Royal College of Nursing on March 29th, last claiming that the College "With no shadow of doubt, was instrumental in obtaining State Registration of Nurses," and also repeating this unjustifiable claim under the heading of "What the College Has Done."

The Council of the British College of Nurses, unanimously agreed that a demand should be sent to the Royal College of Nursing calling upon it to withdraw with equal publicity in its Official Organ this inaccurate and unjustifiable claim, calculated to mislead members of the Nursing Profession and the public.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ALICE STEWART BRYSON, *Secretary.*

AN EVASIVE REPLY FROM THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING.

THE SECRETARY,
THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES,
19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

July 21st, 1941.

MADAM,

Your letter dated July 9th was brought before the Council of the Royal College of Nursing, and I am directed to reply as follows:—

We understand that teachers of the history of nursing give credit to the determined work of the Royal British Nurses' Association in urging the establishment of a state register for nurses. In spite of 30 years of effort, however, state registration was not obtained, yet when the newly formed College of Nursing threw its weight into the scale it was realised that legislation was really desired by the bulk of trained nurses.

We think you will agree that this circumstance makes it quite correct to say that the College of Nursing, "with no shadow of doubt *was* instrumental in obtaining state registration for nurses." There is no claim that it was the only instrument.

Yours faithfully,

D. S. COODE,
Chairman of Council.

The point at issue has been evaded by the Royal College of Nursing. Its claim of having obtained State Registration of Nurses is an attempt to gain credit for the result of the devoted services of others.

We commend the following article to the attention of Miss D. S. Coode and her colleagues.

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