

LEGAL MATTERS.

NO POWER OF APPEAL.

The Nursing Profession has to thank Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P., for bringing the case of Miss Brownlow, S.R.N., before the House of Commons on more than one occasion. To quote *The Times* :—

"Sir W. Smithers (Chislehurst, U.) raised the question of the dismissal of Miss Brownlow, the matron of Farnborough Hospital, and said that here there was a *prima facie* case for an inquiry. Miss Brownlow was a lady of splendid character who had spent her whole life as a nurse, sister, and matron in the service of public assistance hospitals, and she was now dismissed at three months' notice. The Minister of Health, in a letter to him (Sir W. Smithers) on June 4th, wrote: 'No stigma attaches to the persons concerned. The appointment is terminated not because of misconduct or failure to discharge the duties attaching to the post, but because the post has ceased to exist or because its nature and its duties have undergone a fundamental change. . . . I have also offered to sanction the payment to her of a gratuity of £500, a step which is not usual in such cases, but which I regard as justifiable in this case in order to avoid any suggestion of ungenerous treatment.' The mere fact that the Minister of Health authorised the payment of £500 to Miss Brownlow proved that there was nothing against either her character or efficiency.

"Mr. Brown said that the determination of Miss Brownlow's appointment was in no way connected with the inquiry of 1939, except so far as the strain of the inquiry might have made difficulties afterwards in terms of temperament. After the enlargement and change of function of the Farnborough Institution, when it became part of the London emergency casualty service, difficulties concerning the administration were brought to his notice by his officers in that service, and he would have been failing in his duty if he had not taken steps to secure the efficient working of that important key hospital. Miss Brownlow's original post ceased to exist when the Farnborough Hospital was taken over by the county council under the Public Health Act, and the fact was that she had not been selected for appointment as matron of the enlarged casualty hospital or of the general hospital which it was projected it would become after the war. Replying to Mr. Ridley (Clay Cross, Lab.), Mr. Brown said he would do all he could to help Miss Brownlow to find a post which he thought was suitable."

The reply of the Minister of Health does not, of course, the whole story unfold. As matters stand, Miss Brownlow is discharged without a hearing, and the pension which should be due to her for her long service as Matron of the Farnborough Institution withheld.

Is it permissible for the Minister of Health, through a gift of £500 of public money, to relieve the Farnborough authority of its responsibility in this particular? We think not.

We should advise Miss Brownlow to demand her pension if it is due to her, and to refuse in the meantime the solatium of £500, which certainly is not.

THE SCABIES ORDER.

One bit of advice may be useful in these times of overcrowding. Read the Scabies Order, issued by the Ministry of Health, and when out of doors do not fail to wear gloves; they are specially necessary when travelling. Also, unless you are anxious to pick up unconsidered trifles, keep your head free from contact with cushions. We travelled in a bus recently where apparently we were the only British Nationals, and where mops of black uncovered hair or greasy ringlets were apparently *de rigueur*.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

Central Middlesex County Hospital, Willesden, London, N.W.10.—Miss E. S. Laing, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at St. Stephen's Hospital, Fulham Road, London, and has been Superintendent Nurse at Staines Infirmary; Ward Sister at St. Pancras Hospital, London; Tutor Sister at Withington Hospital, Manchester; Tutor Sister at Mayday Hospital, Thornton Heath; and Matron at Hillingdon County Hospital, Uxbridge.

Fyfe-Jamieson Maternity Home, Forfar.—Miss Mary Ross, R.G.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the City Hospital, Edinburgh; at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and at the Simpson Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh, where she was Labour Ward Sister, Senior Night Sister, and Segregation Department Sister.

Town and County Hospital, Wick.—Miss Isabella Milne, R.G.N., has been appointed Matron; she has held a post at the City Hospital, Frairton, Perth.

DEPUTY MATRON.

Hull Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Cottingham.—Miss Jessie Robshaw, S.R.N., has been appointed Deputy Matron. She was trained at the Rotherham Union Hospital, and has been Ward Sister at Southmead Hospital, Bristol; Temporary Ward Sister at West Heath Sanatorium, Birmingham; Night Sister at Groundsdown Sanatorium, Stoke-on-Trent; Night Sister and Home Sister at Hull Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Berkshire Mental Hospital, Wallingford.—Miss A. E. Pilgrim, S.R.N., R.M.N., has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at Mayday Hospital, Croydon, where she was later Staff Nurse, and at Warlingham Park Hospital, where she has been Staff Nurse, Insulin Shock Therapy, male and female; Ward Sister of Admission Infirmary and Treatment Wards; Night Superintendent; and Acting Second Assistant Matron. Miss Pilgrim has also been Junior Assistant and Sister Tutor, and First Assistant Matron at the Berkshire Mental Hospital.

ASSISTANT TO THE TUTOR IN MIDWIFERY.

University College, Leicester.—Miss J. R. Hillier, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Assistant to the Tutor in Midwifery. She was trained at the L.C.C. Hackney Hospital, London, and at the City Maternity Home, Handsworth, Birmingham; she has been Staff Midwife at Bushey Heath Maternity Home; and District Nurse at Chichester.

ASSISTANT MATRON AND SISTER TUTOR.

County Council Hospital, Hereford.—Miss E. M. Crouch, S.R.N., has been appointed Assistant Matron and Sister Tutor. She was trained at the Fulham Hospital, Hammersmith, London, where she was later Staff Midwife, Ward Sister, and Night Superintendent. Miss Crouch has also been Sister Tutor at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton.

SISTER TUTOR.

Dewsbury and District General Infirmary.—Miss D. M. Evans, S.R.N., has been appointed Sister Tutor. She was trained at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry, and has been Night Sister, Home and Sister Tutor at the Kent and Sussex Hospital; Sister Supervisor at the Lister Hospital, Shanghai; Home and Tutor Sister at the King's Lynn Hospital; Holiday Sister at the Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

WEDDING BELLS.

NURSE WEDS AT KILLICRANKIE.

At the House of Urrard, Killiecrankie, the wedding recently took place of Pte. Alexander Ritchie Budge, Canadian Forestry Corps, youngest son of Mr. James Budge and the late Mrs. Budge, Manitoba, and Miss Isabel Taylor, Queen's nurse, late of Finstown, Orkney, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James S. Taylor, Urrard, Killiecrankie.

No doubt one good result of the coming of overseas troops will be the choice of British brides. In past times, they have helped to build the great Dominions in Canada especially.

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