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NO. 2124

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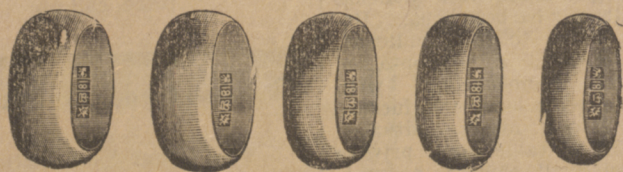
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F. E. BLACKMER

Opp Normal School

(Continued from page three.)

Dr. Atherton said that when he heard these rumors on all sides he could not help believing that there was something in them.

Miss McCallum said she once heard a patient remark to another that "the old woman (meaning her) must be making money out of this place."

DR. MCGRATH'S VIEWS.

Dr. McGrath related a conversation had with a citizen a short time ago in which hospital matters were discussed. The citizen was strongly of the opinion that it was not a poor man's hospital. "You have got to have money to get there," said he, "and you have got to have money to be well taken care of." The citizen further said that everybody on the street knew that it was not a poor man's hospital. In support of his argument he told of a boy who had been sent to the hospital, who was kept waiting on the front steps until the money for his room was forthcoming.

Dr. McGrath also mentioned a case which had been brought to his notice, wherein a man was asked by the matron to assign an insurance policy in order to obtain money to pay for his room. It was felt that the matron is too exacting, and an unfavorable impression of the institution got abroad.

Senator Thompson contended that the hospital rates were very low in comparison with those of other institutions and he believed if all took hold in the right spirit they could make it one of the best hospitals in the Dominion. The present trouble had come upon the trustees almost as suddenly as the San Francisco earthquake, and had somewhat upset things for the time being. They should start all over again and all work together to improve the condition of the institution. He thought a splendid opportunity was open to the medical staff to earn the gratitude of the community.

THE HOSPITAL LAUNDRY.

Dr. McGrath told about being called a short time ago to attend a woman who had been injured in a laundry. He suggested that she go to the hospital, to which she replied, "Oh, no, I see the hospital washing each week; it is done on the cheap plan." The doctor thought that a little more attention should be given to the washing and that somebody should see that it is properly done.

The doctor next related a somewhat extended conversation held with a rather observing lady who had visited the institution. This lady complained of the dusty state of the halls, and stated that she had been told by a maid that the linen on the beds was only changed once a week in the private rooms. She was also told that the place was given a thorough cleaning once only in three months. She had suggested as a remedy that a committee of ladies be appointed to act with the visiting trustee. It was her opinion that under present conditions nobody took any interest in the hospital.

Miss McCallum wished it understood that the control of the hospital was entirely in the hands of the trustees, and she was under their orders. She knew of no case where a patient seeking admission was held up on the front doorsteps for money. The lady Dr. McGrath had quoted had an entirely wrong impression. In regard to the linen on the beds there were cases where it was changed half a dozen times a day.

Mr. Tennant remarked that the laundry was paid a good price for doing the hospital work.

Mr. Barry wanted to know from Dr. McGrath if he had not heard it stated outside that the whole trouble at the hospital was due to insane jealousy of one another among the members of the medical staff.

Dr. McGrath replied that he had heard it stated that there was so much jealousy among the doctors that it was almost impossible to find two who would hold a consultation. That, however, would not affect the popularity of the hospital.

COUNSELLER'S PEACE.

Mr. Barry was inclined to think that differences between the medical profession and the internal management of the hospital was largely responsible for the trouble. The sooner these differences were settled the better it would be for the community. The members of the trustee board had no axe to grind in the matter, but like the medical staff were willing to give their time for the public good. He did not see why all could not consent to a fresh start.

Dr. Atherton was satisfied that differences between members of the medical staff did not interfere with the efficiency of the hospital. He added that it was difficult for medical men in small communities to harmonize their feelings.

Dr. McGrath said that as an individual he was willing to bury the hatchet and start afresh.

Dr. Atherton assured the board that he had no feeling against any of the medical staff, but only wanted fair play. He had nothing against Dr. Vanwart, and did not know that he had done anything improper.

Dr. McGrath said that personally he had no hard feeling against Dr. Vanwart and had always felt that he had been a good friend of the hospital.

Dr. Atherton—I especially dislike having my patients interfered with or told of the cleverness of Dr. Vanwart or any body else. The matron ought to know better—her own sense

HOSPITAL INQUIRY.

of propriety ought to teach her better.

SAYS SHE'S ALL RIGHT.

Miss McCallum was very sorry that the impression had got abroad that she had shown impartiality. She had never tried to influence anybody and was glad an opportunity had come to dispel that idea. She wanted the poor to understand that she was their friend. She was interested in the sick and nobody could say that she had been unkind to anybody. On one occasion a clergyman while under the influence of either had called her a stern, harsh woman. She replied by repeating the words "Jesus Lover of my Soul," and his manner towards her softened at once. She wanted all to know that she acted the part of a Christian towards the poor.

Mr. Randolph remarked that he thought that emphasis should be laid upon the fact that nobody had ever been refused admission to the hospital on account of inability to pay. If she was sharp in carrying out the instructions of the trustees, the method had been loose at first, but a change had been made when the present matron was appointed.

THE MATRON'S DEFENCE.

Miss McCallum Made Answer to the Nurses Charges.

The nurses ultimatum submitted at the last meeting was then taken up and at the request of Miss McCallum who said that their presence embarrassed her, Mrs. Atherton and Mr. McGrath withdrew.

Miss McCallum then took up the type written copy of the nurses' statement and discussed it for nearly two hours almost without interruption on the part of the trustees. She took up each statement in turn and refuted it to her own satisfaction, and her words seem to make a favorable impression on the trustees. She spoke with considerable emotion, and at times was very severe on the nurses, especially upon Miss Smith whom she seemed to regard as the leader of the revolt against her. She supported her statements with a number of exhibits, including dishes, tea pots, doilies, and bread and butter.

At the outset she had a good word for Miss Kirk, the late superintendent and gave the meeting to understand that she was in no way responsible for her leaving the institution. It was an increase of \$240 per year in salary that caused her to remove to Sherbrooke. In regard to the threat of the nurses to leave unless she (the matron) resigned she remarked that the senior nurse had eight months to serve before a diploma would be granted her. No other hospital would grant her a diploma in less than two years. So it could be readily seen that they would make no sacrifice by remaining.

The nurses criticism of the culinary arrangements she said reflected not only upon herself but upon the trustees. She here exhibited a number of dishes and pointed out that the ones used by the nurses were separate and distinct from those used by patients. She produced some silver plated knives and forks, and was able to show by the receipted bill that she had bought and paid for them with her own money for the use of the nurses. She had not charged the amount up to the trustees and never spoke about it before. She was willing to provide cut glass and china for the table if the trustees would give her the means, but at present he considered the dining room equipment compared favorably with that of any cottage hospital she had ever visited.

Miss McCallum next spoke of the trouble she had experienced in getting a cook to work for the hospital. The cook had left in August and she had been in a dilemma ever since. They now had an old woman named Burns who claimed to have cooked at government house. She was much hurt at a published remark made by one of the nurses that she was only an "excuse," and would have left had she not said to her, "You are more than an excuse; you are a friend in need." She went on to say that the nurses frequently go out for a walk in the afternoon and if they came in late for dinner the cook could not be expected to have things warm for them. The whole trouble was simply due to lack of help.

The only fault with the waitress, whose appearance was said to be so unattractive, was that she did too much for other people. Her explanation to the matron of the nurses' charge was "how can you expect me to respect nurses when they don't respect themselves." The conversation at the table she said was often directed at the maid, and she could not help taking part in it. "I will admit that the maid's place can be filled to better advantage, but the nurses who find fault with Kate have almost been chumming with her." She had advertised in the Gleaner for a cook but had not received one single reply so far. "I don't want to keep any person who makes a conflict," said she, "but I don't want to be left without help."

Miss McCallum admitted that there

were little nicks and cracks in some of the dishes, but she did not feel like replacing them at the present time. In answer to the charge that articles contributed to the nurses' table had been laid aside, she produced three doilies and stated they comprised the whole list and she had laid them away for use on special occasions. It was true she said that the maids sometimes laid dishes on the radiator to dry, and if that was a crime it could be easily remedied.

At the request of Mr. Kitchen the matron explained the difference between a dish cloth and a cup towel. In regard to the unsightly chair in the dining room which the nurses had complained of, she had endeavored some time ago to have it re-upholstered but without success. She had also asked to have a linoleum placed on the floor of the dining room, but so far the trustees had not granted it. She took occasion very frequently to impress upon the trustees that she was studying their interests and for that reason had not pressed her application for some needed improvements in the dining room appointments.

The enamelled dish which the nurses had complained of was exhibited by the matron, and the trustees were unable to discover anything objectionable about it. She admitted that a dish of similar nature was used in the operating room.

The matron entered into a lengthy explanation in regard to the Bagley boy, whom the nurses had complained of as being saucy. She thought when the nurses talked to him in a lady like manner he would reciprocate in kind. She had frequently told the nurses that if they did not want to be called Smithie, Brownie, Slippy, etc., they should address one another as Miss Smith, Miss Brown etc. It was sinful and wrong to say that the boy's language is profane, and she felt very badly over it. The boy she explained worked at the hospital for his board, and it cost the institution nothing to clothe him. I would have corrected him had I known he used bad language. She did not ask him to make the fires, but she always got the range ready herself over night. The boy she found very helpful about the institution, and it was help that she needed.

Miss McCallum in tones most pathetic told how her feelings had been wounded by the revolt of the nurses. She thought they should have considered the feelings of their mothers in the matter. She was glad her mother was in heaven and would be more so were she in the position of one of the nurses. If the matron goes from this hospital, said she, the servants will go too.

Miss McCallum next devoted some attention to Miss Smith and told of a kindness which she rendered her sister from Sackville who came to the hospital last winter for treatment. The place was full at the time and she gave up her room for her benefit. The sum of \$18.25 was paid by this patient and turned over to the trustee board. People whose faults are as great as mine would not have done that. When Miss Smith went away on her vacation she came and kissed me good bye. When I read of this document and learned of her connection with it I made up my mind that there was more than one Judas. I gave the nurses a sleigh drive last Christmas and they did not enjoy it half as much as I did in giving it to them. They gave me a fountain pen for a present and if any one of them wants it back she can have it for I will never use it again. I see them all give me credit for not influencing them in favor of Dr. Vanwart, and I am thankful for small mercies.

MISS BROWN'S CASE.

The matron next took up the written statement of Miss Brown, one of the nurses, and subjected it to a most severe criticism. This nurse, said she, is now sick, and has the best room in the house on the order of the matron. She explained that she did not deem it wise in the interests of economy to keep a fire in the kitchen range at night, and it was not her fault that the oil stoves were not in working order in July last. I did not resist the nurses in the matter of lunches and the charge is unkind and untrue. It is true that they did have to carry their own food into the dining room in the morning but that was not a great hardship. The maid was a sufferer from asthma and was allowed to lie in bed in the mornings until after the nurses had breakfast. She admitted the cook became exasperated on one occasion and made use of strong language, but she did not uphold her in it. If she had have donned her hat and walked out and everybody knows how hard it is to procure help.

Mr. Barry—I would be glad to even get a cook who swears.

Miss McCallum, continuing, said that if the boy neglected to dust the hall it was afterwards done by the matron. Miss Brown, when she first came to the hospital dusted the hall sometimes, but she got beautifully over the habit.

WILL NOT RESIGN.

"I appreciate," continued the matron, "the position of the trustees in this matter, and I want to be a co-worker with them, but my own feeling of self-respect prevents me from resigning, and giving away to the dictation of the nurses. If the trustees feel that I have been guilty of any offence, and send me out, they send me out with a ruined name. I cannot resign under these circumstances. I have tried to do what was right. I cannot feel that if I go out into the world I go friendless, because I rest on a higher power. I hope the nurses will never be treated as they have treated me in this matter. When I read their statement I went to my room, and try as I might I could not compose myself to face them. I had never done so much for any class of nurses. I frequently told them of the philanthropic work of the late Mr. Randolph and the late Mrs. Medley, and the King's Daughters, in behalf of the hospital, and explained that I was simply a steward in charge. I frequently urged them to be careful and not allow things to go to waste. I told them to give the patients what food they wanted, but not to put more on their plates than they would use.

DISAPPOINTMENT.

At this stage Miss McCallum paused in her statement and stepped over to the table at which the reporters were sitting and removed a napkin covering from two large plates of bread and butter, causing the junior scribe of the party to get the idea into his noddle that refreshments were about to be served. He soon learned, however, that the edibles were leavings from the tables of patients of the institution. Miss McCallum explained that she had not been in communication with the nurses this week and the large quantity of bread and butter left over was the result.

In reply to Mr. Allen, the matron assured the meeting that the nurses were not compelled to eat butter left by the patients. If they ran short of butter early in the morning some might be used in order to get a meal over.

In conclusion, the matron thanked the trustees for the way they had always stood by her, and expressed the hope that they would do what was right and fair in the present instance.

Mr. Allen called attention to a published statement that some of the evidence taken at the last meeting was unfit for publication. He thought it ought to be explained that nothing of an immoral nature had been brought out in the enquiry.

Miss McCallum stated that she had refused to allow a nurse to call in Dr. Harry McNally, because she thought the preference should be given to the members of the medical staff. She wanted to know what the board thought of it.

Mr. Barry thought that a nurse should be allowed to call any doctor she saw fit so long as no expense was put upon the trustees. The other members seemed to share this view.

It was twelve o'clock when the meeting adjourned to convene on Friday evening at 7.30 o'clock.

Representatives of the Fredericton and St. John papers attended last evening's session and no objection was raised to their presence by the trustees.

Mr. Fred B. Eggecombe Co., Ltd., will make a splendid fur exhibit at the Exhibition Building and visitors should not fail to call and see the style and prices. They are also cordially invited to make themselves perfectly at home in their Big Store when an obliging staff will be pleased to show them all the beautiful new goods for this season's wear.