

(2484)

for charter

71858

secret

relieve letters

April 27th

Dear General Pitt Rivers

I hope you will
endeavour to attend the
Special General Meeting
of the Hospital on Wednesday
Week 9th Inst. at 12 o'c.
a matter has to be
settled of the greatest
importance to the future
wellfare of the Institution.
It is whether the Committee

me to have ~~any~~ authority,
or whether the Hospital
is to be ruled by the
An Physician of the
Hospital: My brother
John is very keen about
it & means to come:
voting is accumulative
& you have 19 votes
but you must give them
in person. Do not ask
us a great many sup:

positions because he is
personally liked, but he
will pay no regard to the
wishes of the Committee
& unless they are supported
their authority is powerless
We must have a majority
of two thirds to carry
our point

I remain
Yours very truly
W Mance.

TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE DORSET COUNTY HOSPITAL.

MY LORDS, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,—Your Committee of the D.C.H. have summoned a general special meeting to be held at the Hospital on Wednesday, the 9th May, 1888, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of deciding the differences now existing between the Committee and two of the Medical Officers as to the position of the Matron in the Wards as the head of the nursing department and as to their retirement from their present office.

Having received the following letter from the Committee, I have not the slightest doubt in my own mind but that they intend to make a great effort to deprive me of my appointment of Surgeon to the C.H., which post I have held for upwards of five years, and have been annually thanked by the general body of Governors for the care and attention I have bestowed on the sick poor entrusted to my care during that time :—

(COPY.)

Fordington Green, Dorchester, April 19th, 1888.

DEAR SIR,—I am requested by the Committee of Management of the D.C.H. to forward you the following proposal made and passed in committee to-day :—Proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by the Rev. C. J. Glyn, that in consideration of the answer Mr. Good gave the Committee on March 15th, 1888, to their request that the Medical Staff should individually signify their hearty acceptance of the resolution (a) of the Committee of April 14th, 1887, with regard to the presence of the Matron in the Wards as head of the nursing department, Mr. Good be requested to resign the office of one of the surgeons of the hospital. Carried, 17 to 2. I am also to add that your definite answer be received not later than Wednesday, April the 25th, and an intimation that any failure in that respect will be regarded as tantamount to a refusal.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

WALTER E. GROVES, Clerk.

W. E. Good, Esq.

To this letter I sent the following reply :—

Dorchester, April 24th, 1888.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 19th inst., I beg to inform you for the information of the Committee of the D.C.H. that I am unable to comply with their request to resign my office of Surgeon to C.H., Dorchester.

Yours truly,

W. E. GOOD.

Mr. W. E. Groves.

The Chairman of the Committee, E. L. Kindersley, Esq., in his circular without date, has stated that the endeavour of the Committee for more than three years to introduce the new class of Matron has been persistently opposed by the Physician (Dr. Lush) and one of the Surgeons (myself). He also states that the Committee have by all the means in their power endeavoured to persuade Dr. Lush and myself to accept their views on the subject, but without avail.

I most emphatically deny that I have ever been consulted by the Committee as to their choice of Matron, and that I have ever opposed their choice. I have never, and I do not believe that Dr. Lush has ever, objected to the Rule 89 (1883) (b), though we have differed from the Committee as to their interpretation of it.

To read Mr. Kindersley's letter one would suppose that the point at issue between the Committee and ourselves is whether the Matron should have been trained as a Nurse or not. This, however, is nonsense; the case is, the Committee have elected just whom they pleased without the slightest interference from or conference with us.

The point at issue is—Are the Committee justified in demanding, after our expressed wish to the contrary, that we should heartily and cordially agree to take the Matron round the Wards with us and allow her to be present at operations and explain our cases to her, and that failing our hearty and cordial consent we should resign our posts?

I have always endeavoured to promote the best measures of the Hospital to the utmost of my power.

In conclusion I venture to urge you to attend the meeting on the 9th inst. and express your opinion on the existing state of things.

I have the honour to remain,

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. ERNEST GOOD,

Surgeon to the C.H., Dorchester.

1st May, 1888.

(COPY.)

(a) The resolution of 14th April, 1887, is as follows :—The Matron is by Rule 89 (1883) made responsible, subject to the directions of the *Medical Officers and House Surgeon*, for the nursing of the patients and the administration of the prescribed diet and remedies. The Committee consider that in order to discharge the duties of this responsibility it is necessary that she should have access to the Wards at all times, and especially that she should be enabled to accompany the Medical Officers when nurses are in attendance.

RULE 89.

(b) She shall be regarded as Mistress of the Establishment, and shall be responsible to the Committee of Management for the regular, efficient, and economical discharge of all the duties of the housekeeping department; and also subject to direction from the *House Surgeon and Medical Officers* for all that concerns the nursing and exercise of the patients, and the administration of the prescribed diet and remedies.