

patients? But the Hindmarsh Council, having raised an awkward question affecting the new policy entered upon by the Board, had in effect a polite snub administered to it. True, an assurance was given it that ample provision would be made for the outdoor patients department, but the majority of the Board loftily declined to enter into particulars. It was not told in so many words that it was a matter of little concern to the Hospital or to the Government whether its donation was continued or not; but as the Chairman later on showed to his own satisfaction and apparently to that of his colleagues that the annual subscription from certain sources resulted rather in loss than in gain to the institution it may be excused for coming to the conclusion that its contribution will not be missed.

The remarks of Mr. Tucker under this head are scarcely of a character to commend themselves to the public. Following out his mode of argument to its legitimate issue, it would not be difficult to prove that private donations in general entail loss upon the institution on the ground that they facilitate the admission of sick poor people, whose treatment costs money. It would only be going a step further to say that if no patients were sent to the Hospital the public funds would be saved, and all occasion for differences such as those which have so greatly disorganized the institution would be effectually prevented. The Chairman's words if they mean anything at all can only act as a discouragement to private benevolence so far as the Hospital is concerned. Can it be that they are designed to indicate the direction in which the ruling powers desire to move? Is it to be understood that it is the wish of the authorities that the Hospital shall be maintained entirely by Government funds and under Government control, which means that it will be conducted strictly in accordance with the ideas of the political party which happens to be in power? This policy may be intelligible as a part

of a system of State socialism, but as a means of cultivating and strengthening the best and most humane instincts of the community it is about the most mischievous that can possibly be imagined.

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Register

31<sup>st</sup> October 1896

## THE ADELAIDE HOSPITAL.

### THE GOVERNMENT AND THE DOCTORS.

#### FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

#### MINUTE BY THE PREMIER.

#### MEDICAL MEN WANTED.

The ordinary meeting of the Adelaide Hospital Board was held at the institution on Friday afternoon. There were present—The Chairman, the Mayor of Adelaide; the Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C., Messrs. W. H. Wadey, C. Lyons, W. G. Coombs, and C. R. Morris, Mayor of Port Adelaide; Drs. Curtis, Rogers, and Hill, Mesdames Nicholls, Cullen, Parkin, and Edwards, and the Secretary, Mr. H. D. Haggard.

The CHAIRMAN said it would be wise for the Board to resolve itself into committee, so as to deal in the usual manner with matters concerning the internal working of the Hospital. On the motion of Mr. WADEY, seconded by Mrs. PARKIN, the Board resolved itself into committee.

After an interval of two hours the representatives of the Press were readmitted.

An apology for non-attendance was read from the Hon. A. R. Addison, the reason given being his absence with the Parliamentary party in the North.

The CHAIRMAN said in reference to the negotiations which were being made to settle the trouble, and to which he had referred at the last meeting, he regretted to have to inform them to-day that those negotiations had fallen through. He assured them that it came as a very great surprise to him that morning to see by the paper that they had fallen through, because right up to Thursday evening the Government and himself, representing the Board, had been led to believe by those parleying between the late Honorary Medical Staff and the Government that the prospects of settlement were very much better than ever before. They were practically assured that it was to be settled on Thursday night, when a resolution was to be carried that would enable the late Honorary Medical Staff to go back individually. A resolution was, however, carried that the staff could only go back as a body. The difficulty pointed out was that there were something like two or three who were not prepared to go back; the others were prepared to do so under certain terms and conditions. Suggestions had been made for conciliation by a certain amount of give-and-take, so that they might come back, and they could imagine his astonishment at seeing the very direct resolution carried the evening before. He was sure the Board deeply regretted the failure of the negotiations. It would have been a very happy termination to this continuous trouble, and would have been hailed with satisfaction by the Board and by

the public generally. The trouble had been of very long duration, and now they were practically as they had been. Of course what might take place after this would be dealt with by the Board and the Government. They would be asked to-day to pass a resolution which he hoped would facilitate matters. In the meantime he might say that the Government had approved the Board's recommendation for the removal of Professor Watson. There was also a minute from the Premier referring to the statements appearing in that morning's *Register* as to his part in the matter. It was sent by the Premier to the Chief Secretary, who in turn had referred it to the Chairman of the Board.

The SECRETARY read the minute as follows:—

Memo for the Hon. the Chief Secretary—

“I shall be glad if the Hon. the Chief Secretary will communicate this minute to the Hospital Board.