

rendered it unnecessary for him to indulge in such vehement disclaimers of perfidious designs. Have they not acted together with a harmony which is positively touching? Have not the Board obeyed his every behest with self-effacing alacrity, and in return for their docility have not he and his colleagues returned the compliment by forthwith granting practically every request they have seen fit to make? Witness the promptitude with which the Ministry approved of the recommendation to dispense with the services of the house surgeons, who were ordered to quit their duties before they had time to correct the report of the evidence upon which presumably they were condemned. Witness, too, the endorsement by the Government of the disgraceful action of the Board with regard to Professor Watson, who has been subjected to the ignominy of dismissal upon grounds so ridiculously inadequate as to constitute the treatment he has received an outrageous travesty of justice? It would indeed be the basest ingratitude for the Premier to contemplate the idea of arbitrarily displacing any member of so useful and so subservient a Board. None the less the possibility of ultimate changes in the composition of that body undoubtedly entered into the mind of the negotiators, and that is practically what was hinted at in the statement which the Premier denounces with such heat and fervour. Why, the hon. gentleman himself admits that it was in his mind to reward "one distinguished and honourable man in the medical profession" by appointing him to the first vacancy on the Board, and it is well known that one or more of the present members long ago voluntarily undertook, in the event of the late Honorary Staff returning to duty, to give place to them. Who the distinguished and honourable man upon whom Mr. Kingston bestows such exuberant praise may happen to be we do not know, but it will be seen that one gentleman



who has been in close conference with the Premier emphatically declares that it cannot be he who has been thus singled out.

The efforts at conciliation having so completely miscarried, the public will have to be prepared for a continuance of the Hospital difficulty. The Board, as in duty bound under the circumstances, have decided to call for applications for an



Assistant Surgeon and an Assistant physician, who are to be paid £250 each, and are to be guaranteed their positions for a period of three years. Even should this attempt to strengthen the permanent staff prove successful the provision for medical attendance at the Hospital will compare very unfavourably with that which existed prior to the enforced retirement of the honorary officers six or seven months ago. For the rest it is to be assumed that Parliamentary discussion of the affairs of the institution will be in due course renewed. The charges affecting the competency of Dr. Leith Napier and Dr. Ramsay Smith and the circumstances under which the services of the house surgeons and of Professor Watson have been dispensed with have still to be enquired into. For the sake of peace and in the interests of the Hospital we, in common with the public at large, would have been glad if arrangements could have been made to bring to a close the strife of tongues which has been carried on for so many weary months, but as this has been found impracticable it is essential for the future wellbeing of South Australia's leading charity that a searching investigation as to the capacity of those in whose hands the lives of patients are placed should be speedily held.

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