

Yorkshire Post June 25<sup>th</sup> 1916.

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## LEEDS TRAINING COLLEGE.

### MORE RESIGNATIONS OF WOMEN TUTORS.

There seems to have been further discontent amongst the women staff of the Leeds Training College, and yesterday members of the Higher Education Sub-Committee received eight resignations. The signatures of seven residential women tutors were attached to one joint letter, which members of the Committee received yesterday morning. It read as follows:—

We shall be glad if you will allow us to state to you the reason why we have resigned our positions in the City of Leeds Training College. On June 13 the Secretary for Education explained to a meeting of resident tutors and housekeepers the general educational policy and ideals of the College. The ideas then set forth came to us as a great shock, and we feel that we cannot continue our work in an institute where the avowed policy of the Governors, as expressed by their Secretary, differs so widely from the ideals which have hitherto been followed both here and in other Training Schools and Colleges.

In addition, the references made to details concerning the residential life, proved to us what we have long felt, that the present constitution whereby the housekeepers are directly responsible to the Secretary for Education and the tutors to the Principal and Vice-Principal, is not sound in practice, nor conducive to the efficiency and harmony of hostel life.

This is signed by Misses Elizabeth Birdsell, assistant lecturer in education and history; Gertrude Ella Clapham, assistant lecturer in education; L. M. Hardy, lecturer in geography; Dorothy Edmonds, assistant lecturer in education; Isabel Stephens, librarian and lecturer in education; L. Walford, lecturer in mathematics.

To this letter Alderman Clarke, we understand, as Chairman of the Education Committee, has replied:—

Dear Mesdames,—I am in receipt of your letter. You state that the responsibility of the housekeepers to the Secretary of Education and of the tutors to the Principal and Vice-Principal is "not sound in practice, nor conducive to the efficiency and harmony of hostel life," but I am quite unaware of any instance in proof of this. The arrangement would, prima facie appear to be a business-like and reasonable one, and I should be much obliged if you could give me detailed instances in support of your view.

With regard to Mr. Graham's address on the 13th inst., it would, I think be only right (as I was not present) for you to explain what were the ideas which came to you as "a great shock," and particularly in what respect they differ from the ideals followed in other and similar Colleges.

Miss Grace Owen sends a separate letter resigning her position as head of the department of infant and junior school teachers in the same College, and in it she says:—

I have resigned at this time because of the change in conditions at the College which the Vice-Principal's resignation involves. Whatever arrangements may be made by the Education Committee for next year, I could not fail to find myself, were I to remain in what would be to me a very undesirable position. Should another vice-principal be appointed under similar conditions to those which have controlled the situation during the last three years, I cannot but look forward to a repetition of what has occurred with the accompanying hampering of the whole work of the College.

Should no responsible vice-principal be appointed to our college, which, even in normal times, contains such a large preponderance of women students, I feel I could not co-operate unreservedly in such a policy, and that this would make my work unsatisfactory to all concerned. I have, therefore, felt obliged to send in my resignation, although I have done so with most genuine and deep regret."

Alderman Clarke has written to Miss Owen as follows:—

Dear Miss Owen,—I am in receipt of your letter. You state that you are resigning your position at the Training College "because of a change in conditions which the Vice-Principal's resignation seems to involve." I am not aware of any such change in conditions, and it would perhaps be more satisfactory if you would be good enough to define what change in conditions you refer to. I also do not understand what you refer to by "a repetition of what has occurred with the accompanying hampering of the whole work of the College." I am not aware that the work of the College has been hampered, but on the contrary, I have been of the opinion that it had been highly successful. If you will kindly give me details, it will enable me to understand your reasons in a way which, I must confess, I am at present unable to do.

It will be recalled that the resignation of Miss Mercier, the Vice-Principal, was accepted at the last meeting of the Education Committee. The letters quoted were discussed at a largely attended meeting of the Higher Education Sub-Committee, held yesterday, over which Alderman Fred Kinder presided. It recommended that the resignations be accepted, and further discussion is expected at the monthly meeting of the Education Committee next Wednesday.

Yorkshire Observer

22<sup>nd</sup> June 1916.

## DISCONTENT AT LEEDS TRAINING COLLEGE.

### EIGHT LECTURERS RESIGN.

There seems to be considerable discontent among the staff of the Leeds Training College and yesterday the members of the Higher Education Committee received eight resignations. The signatures of seven residential tutors were attached to one joint letter, which members of the committee received yesterday morning. The letter read as follows:—"We should be glad if you will allow us to state to you the reason why we have resigned our positions in the City of Leeds Training College. On June 13 the Secretary for Education explained to a meeting of resident tutors and housekeepers the general educational policy and ideals of the college. The ideas then set forth came to us as a great shock, and we feel that we cannot continue our work in an institute where the avowed policy of the governors, as expressed by their secretary, differs so widely from the ideals which have hitherto been followed both here and in other training schools and colleges. In addition, the references made to details concerning the residential life proved to us what we have long felt, that the present constitution, whereby the housekeepers are directly responsible to the Secretary for Education and the tutors to the Principal and Vice-principal, is not sound in practice, nor conducive to the efficiency and harmony of hostel life."

This is signed by Elizabeth Birdsell, assistant lecturer in education and history; Gertrude Ella Clapham, assistant lecturer in education; L. M. Hardy, lecturer in geography; Dorothy Edmonds, assistant lecturer in education; Isabel Stephens, librarian and lecturer in education; L. Walford, lecturer in mathematics.

Miss Grace Owen sends a separate letter resigning her position as head of the department of infant and junior school teachers in the same college, and in her letter, addressed from 2, Grange Court, Headingley, and also dated June 17, she says: "I have resigned at this time because of the change in conditions at the college which the Vice-principal's resignation involves. Whatever arrangements may be made by the Education Committee for next year, I could not fail to find myself, were I to remain, in what would be to me a very undesirable position. Should another Vice-principal be appointed under similar conditions to those which have controlled the situation during the last three years, I cannot but look forward to a repetition of what has occurred with the accompanying hampering of the whole work of the college. Should no responsible Vice-principal be appointed to our college, which even in normal times contains such a large preponderance of women students, I feel I could not co-operate unreservedly in such a policy, and that this would make my work unsatisfactory to all concerned. I have therefore felt obliged to send in my resignation, although I have done so with most genuine and deep regret."

It will be recalled that the resignation of Miss Mercier, the Vice-principal, was accepted at the last meeting of the Education Committee. The letters quoted were discussed at a largely attended meeting of the Higher Education Sub-committee held yesterday, over which Alderman F. Kinder presided. It recommended that the resignations be accepted; and further information as to the real grievances at the college may be available at the monthly meeting of the Education Committee next Wednesday.



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Yorks Post

23<sup>rd</sup> June 1916.

THE RESIGNATIONS AT LEEDS TRAINING  
COLLEGE.

In addition to the women tutors whose names appeared in yesterday's "Yorkshire Post" as having resigned their positions under the Leeds Education Committee at the Training College at Beckett's Park, Miss Emily Matthias asks us to state that her name was omitted from the list. Miss F. Walker, of the department for the training of upper schoolwomen, informs us that she also has resigned. Beyond this the matter has advanced no further. None of the ladies concerned has given any detailed reason for the step that has been taken, obviously in concert, by nine of the women tutors, though they have been asked by the Education Authority to do so. Miss Mercier, the vice-principal, whose resignation has already been accepted, was yesterday given by us an opportunity of putting her side of the case before the public, but she said that she desired to say nothing at present. The correspondence which has already been published contains no statement of any real grievance, and we are informed that neither Miss Mercier nor any one of the other resigning members of the staff has ever formulated any complaint, or made any suggestion that has not been considered.

Yorkshire Post

24<sup>th</sup> June 1916.

THE RESIGNATIONS AT LEEDS TRAINING COLLEGE.

To the Editor of The Yorkshire Post.

Sir,—In a paragraph in to-day's issue you say that "I was given an opportunity of putting my case before the public," etc. I wish to state that I have no "case" to put before the public.

The reasons for my resignation were contained in a letter addressed to the Governors of the Training College. A fuller statement of these reasons, and of the steps by which I came to my decision, can only be given to those who are immediately concerned with the working and the control of the College. I do not consider that at this point the College would be served by any public statement on my part.—Yours, etc.,

WINIFRED MERCIER.

The Training College, Beckett's Park, June 23, 1916.

Sir,—A paragraph in your issue of to-day reads that "no statement of any real grievance" was brought forward. We have no "grievance" to bring forward. The point at issue is one of educational principle. The address given by the secretary set out a policy in education for the College which we cannot accept. Since this address was given in the name of the Governors of the Training College, we feel that we cannot continue to hold positions in the College they control. We do not consider that examples drawn from the address or from the difficulties experienced in the system of dual control in the hostels can usefully be given in the public Press. Such a course, we hold, is not for the ultimate good of the College. We are sending a letter to the Governors of the Training College in reply to Alderman Clarke, and at the same time we are approaching our professional association with a request that it move for a formal inquiry.—Yours, etc.,

E. BIRDSSELL, GERTRUDE ELLA CLAPHAM, DOROTHY EDMONDS, L. M. HARDY, EMILY MATTHIAS, ISABEL STEPHENS, ZOE WALFORD.

City of Leeds Training College, Beckett's Park,  
Leeds, June 23, 1916.

\*\* On inquiry, we are informed that Alderman Clarke  
\* has not received any reply to his specific questions.  
—Ed., Y.P.