

February, 1926.

CITY OF LEEDS TRAINING COLLEGE.

In a letter dated 18th January, 1926, the resident women tutors asked for an interview with the Governors in order to bring to their notice "the conditions of resident life which have resulted in the "present unwillingness of tutors to undertake residence."

The Governors referred the letter to the House Committee whose province it was to deal with such matters.

At a Meeting of the House Committee held at Leighton Hall, Beckett Park, on Wednesday, the 24th February, 1926, the resident women tutors were invited to make any representations which they might wish to put before the Committee. At the interview Miss Hartley said that she had been asked to act as the spokeswoman of the resident women tutors.

Summary of points put forward
at the interview

Opinion of House Committee
with regard to such points.

(i) While recognising that the College is residential, the tutors feel that in staffing the hostels consideration should be given as far as possible to any preference on the part of individual tutors.

This is essentially a matter for the Principal, who makes his recommendations to the House Committee after considering with the Vice-Principal any representations which may be made on the subject.

(ii) It is a question whether increased efficiency would not be obtained by a tutor going out of residence for a time.

What was the procedure where a tutor wished to put forward an application for a period of relief from residential duties?

Miss Hartley instanced her own case where she had had 10 years of residential life, and would be glad to go out of residence for next term, and come back in September.

It is conceivable that in certain cases increased efficiency would result from a tutor going out of residence for a time. Any application in this respect by a woman tutor should be made to the Principal who would make his recommendations to the House Committee after consultation with the Vice-Principal, regard being paid to the suitability of the tutorial staff available for residential duties.

It is desirable that adequate notice (a term if possible) should be given of any such application.

Miss Preedy had asked for permission to go out of residence at the end of last term, but had been informed that the application could not be granted. Were the Governors not satisfied with the reasons given?

Miss Preedy's application was not granted because, after consultation with the Principal and Vice-Principal, the Governors were of opinion that there was no other member of the staff who was suitable to undertake residential duties.

Summary of points put
forward at the interview:

Opinion of House Committee
with regard to such points:

(iii) There are many drawbacks to residential life; so much of a tutor's time is occupied by hostel and college functions that they have very little opportunity for social intercourse.

There are two resident women tutors at each hostel, and in the opinion of the House Committee there is ample leisure time for social intercourse outside the College.

(iv) The tutors suggest that they should be given freedom and scope to develop the hostels on their own lines after submitting their views to the Principal and Vice-Principal.

They wish to try to think out a line on which to develop the students, and to carry out their own ideals.

On being questioned as to what was meant by this, Miss Hartley instanced the suggestion made by tutors to the Principal and Vice-Principal that certain procedure should be followed with regard to students being allowed to have tea in their study bedrooms and to entertain guests on three afternoons a week. This suggestion was not adopted in full.

Within certain limits, the tutors are left to develop the hostels on their own lines. The City of Leeds Training College, however, is one of the largest Colleges in the country with 8 Halls of Residence, and it has been found by experience that it is necessary for the Governors to lay down certain basic rules and regulations which must be followed.

The question of students being allowed to have tea in their study bedrooms has been very fully considered by the House Committee at two meetings, at which the Principal and Vice-Principal were present, and the following decision was arrived at and embodied in the printed rules:

"Students may have tea in
"their study bedrooms on
"Wednesdays and Saturdays
"if proper notice is given.
"They will provide their own
"crockery, cutlery, table
"linen, etc. On Saturdays,
"they may have their parents
"and friends to tea, but a
"charge of 6d. a person will
"be made."

The Committee did not think it reasonable that the privilege should be extended to Sundays because of the extra duties imposed on the domestic staff.

It is considered that the question of teas cannot now be reopened. It is for the tutors loyally to see that the wishes of the Committee and of the Governors are carried out.

Summary of points put forward
at the interview:

Opinion of House Committee
with regard to such points:

Miss Carder.

Resident life places considerable strain on tutors. Each year students in hostels change, necessitating unrelaxed effort on the part of the tutors.

Great deal of time is taken up in developing the social attitude of the students, refining their standards, helping them with their difficulties and with organisation.

It is not possible to have much relaxation even at week-ends.

Is it not possible for the Governors to allow the tutors free board and residence as a quid pro quo for the supervisory duties undertaken in the hostels?

The tutors also feel that there is a need for more privacy. In their own rooms they are frequently required to entertain College visitors, and it is often impossible for the tutors to snatch a brief period for rest after the mid-day meal.

The students of the college are in residence only 36 weeks in the year. The remaining 16 weeks (4 months) represent College vacations. The duties mentioned are incidental to the life of a tutor in residence at any college and while the Committee do not wish to depreciate the value of the work undertaken they are of opinion that the tutors are adequately remunerated for the work they perform.

Each tutor receives a sum of £40 a year for residential duties, and is charged £70 a year for board, residence, medical attendance, and laundry.

It is estimated that the value of the latter, if obtained in rooms or a flat in a good residential area, would amount to between £3 and £4 a week. On this basis tutors in residence for 36 weeks of the year might be said to be receiving a sum approximating to £100 a year in return for the duties they undertake at the hostels.

As regards the question of privacy, each of the two resident tutors is provided with a sitting room and bedroom. The visitors alluded to are more often than not non-resident colleagues who take their mid-day meal in Hostel because of some lecturing appointment in the afternoon. If rest is necessary it should be an easy matter for the tutors to arrange this between themselves, or to retire to their own bedrooms. Coffee for visitors might be served in the Library.

Miss Magrath.

The furniture is not adequate for the needs of the hostels. It is considered that there should be a reasonable standard of furnishing, and attention should be paid to the individual needs of the tutors, e.g. some tutors need a good supply of bookshelves and drawers.

There should also be a reasonable dietary in all hostels. Here again the individual needs of the tutors should not be overlooked.

Miss Preedy.

The dietary is not sufficiently varied and certain articles which should be included in the dietary are lacking.

In Caedmon Hall this term there had been only four occasions on which green vegetables had been provided. There were also considerable differences in the food provided in the hostels. Students appeared to be much better catered for in certain hostels. She herself had felt the ill-effects of the dietary.

The Governors have provided each resident tutor with sufficient furniture to ensure a high standard of comfort, bookshelves among other things being provided. If additional furniture is desired by some individual tutor, it should be provided by the tutor, and the Governors should not be expected to meet the cost.

It was decided that enquiries should be made with regard to the statements as to the dietary. The Principal subsequently asked the Vice-Principal and the Superintendent Matron (Mrs. Jackson) to interview Miss Birks, the Matron of Caedmon Hall.

The criticism that green vegetables have been only rarely provided at Caedmon appears to be substantially correct. No complaint however was made. If Miss Preedy had mentioned the matter to the Principal, Vice-Principal, the Medical Officer, or the Matron, the question of the dietary would at once have been investigated and dealt with.

The Matron has now received instructions which it is hoped will obviate any cause for complaint.

It is not a fact that there are "considerable differences in the food provided in the Hostels". The same standard of catering obtains in all the Hostels and any indication of insufficiency would be dealt with at once in the same manner as any indication of extravagance or waste. The last terminal costing tables shew that in the matter of food supplies any criticism against Caedmon would not be justified.