Being Fed Through Nostrils Is Described by Alice Paul, Young American Suffragette

Inventor of Hunger Strike Tells How British Prison Physicians Keep Life in Women Who Won't Eat or Wear Clothes.

London, Dec. 9.—Miss Alice Paul, of Philadelphia, the suffragette who was arrested November 9th and sentenced to a month's hard labor for her share in the suffragette demonstration at the Lord Mayor's banquet at the Guildhall, was released from Holloway jail this morning on the completion of her thirty days. She left the prison in a cab, accompanied by two wardresses, and went to the home of friends. A doctor was immediately called to attend her there, owing to her weakened condition.

Miss Paul, who was the inventor of the suffragettes' "hunger strike" and practiced it during her latest term in jail, was cheerful, and said she did not regret her conduct, and was prepared to repeat it again if necessary. She said she was unable to undergo the ordeal of an interview, but later she sent your correspondent a statement by a friend. On previous convictions, Miss Paul was able to gain her freedom by refusing to eat, but her tactics were futile this time.

Miss Paul said she was the granddaughter of a New Jersey judge, and a master of arts of the University of Pennsylvania. She had done a great deal of settlement work during the last four years, and came to London in September, 1908, to study economics. After saying that she was first struck by the contrast between the academic interest in woman suffrage in America and the lively character of the movement here, Miss Paul told this story of her prison life.

"I practiced a hunger strike until November 11th. After that date they fed me twice a day by force, except on one day when I was too ill to be touched. I have no complaints against the Holloway officials. I spent the whole time in bed, because I refused to wear prison clothes. Each day, I was wrapped in blankets and taken to another cell to be fed, the food being injected through my nostrils.

"During this operation the largest Wardress in Holloway sat astride my knees, holding my shoulders down to keep me from bending forward. Two other wardresses sat on either side and held my arms. Then a towel was placed around my throat, and one doctor from behind forced my head back, while another doctor put a tube in my nostril. When it reached my throat my head was pushed forward.

"Twice the tube came through my mouth and I got it between my teeth. My mouth was then pried open with an instrument. Sometimes they tied me to a chair with sheets. Once I managed to get my hands loose and snatched the tube, tearing it with my teeth. I also broke a jug, but I didn't give in."

Miss Paul lives alone in London. Her friend told me with great gusto how Miss Paul had eluded the vigilance of the police at the Lord Mayor's banquet. It seems she and Miss Amelia Brown, her partner in the escapade, dressed as charwomen, went to the Guildhall at 9 o'clock in the morning. Every time they met anyone they asked the way to the kitchen. They had many hairbreadth escapes, and once, seeing a policeman close at hand, they knelt down to escape notice. In the dark the policeman actually put his cape on them. Finally they succeeded in getting to the gallery overlooking the banqueting hall, where they shrieked and threw stones through a stained glass window.

Miss Lucy Burns, the other American suffragette, is following Winston Spencer Churchill around the country, making it as warm as possible for the President of the Board of Trade.

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