

forming its plans quietly for future action, disarming opponents on every side by its moderation, and encouraging the weak-kneed to join it because of its rapid success.

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I AM very glad to hear that Miss Maud Smith has been appointed Matron of the Royal Infirmary at Bristol. She was trained, I am informed, at St. Bartholomew's, and at the examinations in May, 1887, gained the gold medal. She was shortly afterwards appointed Matron of the Homerton Fever Hospital, which she left to become Sister in temporary charge of Charing Cross Hospital, a position which she is about to vacate upon Miss Gordon's arrival. Miss Smith, I am told, has, in every post she has held, won for herself golden opinions, and goes to her new sphere of work with the best wishes for her success and happiness, from troops of friends.

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As many of my readers know, there has been no small excitement in Nursing circles lately about the Sisterships at the Charing Cross Hospital, left vacant by the departure of the St. John's House workers from the Institution. There were forty-four applications for the nine vacancies, the following being the successful candidates:—Miss Humphrey, Miss Finch, Miss Heather-Bigg, Miss Evans, Miss Dunbar, Miss Ransford, Miss Peter, Miss Hawdon, Miss Portus. The four first-named ladies have worked for about four years as Sisters in the Hospital, under the old *régime*. Miss Dunbar was trained at Westminster; Miss Ransford was many years at Lowestoft, and has lately been in charge of the Women's and Children's Hospital at Leeds; Miss Peter has been Superintendent of a Hospital at Norwich; Miss Hawdon was trained at the London Hospital, then became a Sister in the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, and afterwards Matron of the Stafford Infirmary; Miss Portus was trained at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, and has just returned from Barbadoes, where she had charge of a Hospital.

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MRS. WILLIAM PRESTON GRIFFIN, President of the Board of Managers of the Bellevue Training School for Nurses, was, says *The Queen*, one of the founders of that Institution, and has been an active worker in its cause since the start. Mrs. Griffin was an Army Nurse during the civil war, and was one of the four women attached to the steamship Daniel Webster, when it made its first trip to New York, equipped as a floating Hospital. Among the devoted young women who served under Mrs. Griffin at that time was Mrs. Katherine Prescott Wormeley, who has since become well known to the readers of books as the translator of Balzac's novels into English.

I AM glad to hear that Miss Blanche Abell has been appointed Night Sister at the Royal Infirmary at Aberdeen. Miss Abell was received as a Probationer at the General Hospital, Birmingham, in March, 1884. In 1885 she was made Head Nurse of a Female Medical Ward, and in the beginning of 1887 was transferred to one of the Male Accident Wards. This last post she has held ever since.

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As another instance of the interest felt now-a-days in Nursing matters, the following extract from our contemporary, *The Echo*, recently, is suggestive in many ways. The Editor, however, I fancy has hit the right nail on the head, because so long as there are thousands of untrained and ignorant women able to compete on apparently equal terms with skilled Nurses, there is no earthly use in forming a trades, or any other, union to protect the interests of Nurses against the managers of Nursing Homes. It is a common-sense truism that if the supply exceeds the demand, prices cannot possibly rise; in fact, they must inevitably fall lower and lower. This, of course, is one reason why so many clever women and best class Nurses have hastened to join the British Nurses' Association, and why inferior and half-trained ones have not done so, because they see that once the Royal Charter is obtained and Nurses become legally registered, the occupation of the Nursing quack will be gone. Trained Nurses will then have a definite value as skilled workers, and first-class Nursing Associations will be able to treat their employées even better than they do now, because they will be saved the competition of the hundreds of mushroom Homes, who supply women with little or no training as Private Nurses to the defenceless public.

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"NURSES who are engaged in private work are much dissatisfied with their present positions. It seems that unless a woman belongs to one or other of the recognised associations for providing Nurses, she has but little chance of finding employment. Though the Associations receive very high pay, especially for the services of women competent to undertake the care of surgical or special cases, the Nurses themselves do not receive more on an average than £20 a year. That is woefully inadequate, when all the long preliminary training and the grave responsibilities of the situation be taken into account. The only course of action open to the Nurses is to form a great mutual combination or trades union, for the protection of their own interests; and this they seem strongly inclined to do. The truth of the matter, however, is that the Nursing profession is at present

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