

The New Vice-Chairman of the Matrons' Council.

MANY of our readers will, we are sure, receive with pleasure the engravings which we publish this week of Miss Gertrude Knight, the recently appointed Vice-Chairman of the Matrons' Council, and of the Nottingham General Hospital, of which she is the matron. We congratulate the Matrons' Council on its newly appointed officer, and upon its action in conferring the distinction of the vacant vice-chairmanship upon the matron of the Nottingham General Hospital. The Council might have sought far before finding anyone more worthy of the honour. Miss Knight has been a member of the Matrons' Council from its foundation, an instance of the fact that she has consistently throughout the whole of her nursing career supported all movements which make for the advancement and consolidation of

the profession to which her life has been devoted, a fact which her steadfast support of the original principles of the Royal British Nurses' Association amply demonstrates. It was in 1880 that she began her nursing career by entering St. Bartholomew's Hospital as a probationer. In those days the rush of educated women into the nursing profession had not begun; hours were long, the work laborious, and those who took up nursing were made of sterner and more enduring stuff than many of the applicants for the vacant positions

of probationers nowadays, when to be a nurse often means a rise in the social scale; and what with the shortened hours on duty, the cosy nurses' home, its dainty bedrooms and its well-appointed dining room, the lot of the present day nurse is a favoured one indeed. After obtaining her certificate, Miss Knight spent two years private nursing in Algiers, where she no doubt availed herself to the full of the educative possibilities of travel and life in a

foreign country. In 1884 she was appointed ward sister at the Radcliffe Infirmary Oxford, from which post she obtained the Matronship of the Eye and Ear Infirmary, Dublin. In 1888 she removed to the more important position of Matron of the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, where she remained until 1892, when she was appointed Matron of the Nottingham General Hospital. As the superintendent of nursing of the hospital in this busy provincial town, Miss Knight finds full scope for her many talents, and the nursing school of the hospital under



MISS GERTRUDE KNIGHT,
Matron, General Hospital, Nottingham, Vice-Chairman,
Matrons' Council.

her efficient régime ranks high amongst English training schools. The experience obtainable in surgical and operation work is excellent, so that it is small wonder that there are many demands for the few vacancies in this well-organized hospital. The view of the hospital shows the front of the old building charmingly situated in an old-fashioned garden. A new wing has been added to the original building, and various alterations and additions are now under contemplation in order to bring the whole hospital up to the standard of modern requirements.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)