

## The [Matrons' Council.

### A NEW MEMBER.

We have much pleasure in presenting to our readers a portrait of Miss S. Emily Polden, the new Matron of the Royal United Hospital, Bath, and a member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses. Miss Polden has been engaged in professional work since 1891, when for two years she studied medicine at the Medical College, Calcutta. She returned to England in 1893, and in 1894 entered St. Bartholomew's Hospital as a probationer, and in due time obtained her certificate, after which she took the Assistant Matron's holiday duty, at the Hospitals Convalescent Home, Parkwood, Swanley, Kent. In December, 1898, she was appointed Night Sister at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum. As there are 770 beds in this institution, the post is one in which valuable experience is gained, and administrative capacity tested. At the end of three months Miss Polden was promoted to the position of Assistant Matron in this infirmary, in which capacity she had to give lectures to large classes of probationers. She has, therefore, had much experience to qualify her for the important position which she now holds, and where she will, no doubt, uphold the best traditions of her training school.

### THE CONFERENCE.

Members of the Matrons' Council will be glad to hear something of the arrangements suggested for the Annual Conference, as it will enable them to make plans. It is proposed that the Conference shall be held on July 5th and 6th, that there shall be a business meeting on the morning of July 5th, from 12—1, and that the Conference proper shall take place on the afternoons of both days, from 3—6 p.m., as this time appears to be the most convenient for busy members. A Paper on the Poor Law Nursing Service has been promised by Miss Julian, Matron of the Croydon Infirmary, and other subjects suggested are the Licensing of Private Nursing Homes, the Nursing of the Sick at Sea, the Registration of Trained Nurses, from the point of view of the nurse, the doctor, and the public, and the necessity for the formation of Nursing Departments in all Government Offices dealing with the nursing of the sick.



MISS S. EMILY POLDEN,  
*Matron of the Royal United Hospital, Bath;*  
*Member of the Matrons' Council.*

### "THE NURSING DIRECTORY."

The *Nursing Directory*, is always a welcome publication, for not only does it supply, in a convenient form information as to the training of many nurses in the country, but owing to the fact that it is published under the authority of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the professional supervision, so necessary in a professional Directory, is insured. Besides the information given with regard to the careers of individual nurses the Directory is of much value to the public as it contains notices with regard to the Government Nursing Services and all the principal training schools, and intending probationers

will do well to consult it in order to acquaint themselves with the regulations of the various hospitals, and to form an opinion as to which institution they would prefer to enter. Information is also found in the *Nursing Directory* which is to be met with nowhere else with regard to the nursing societies, and we notice that it is this year quite up to date in containing notices of the "International Council of Nurses," the "League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses," the "Australasian Trained Nurses Association," and the "Prince Alfred Hospital Graduates' Union," all of which societies have been initiated during the past year.

We notice also that the names of the holders of the Royal Red Cross are published from its institution by the Queen in 1883. It is noticeable that since the year of its institution there have never been so many Red Crosses awarded as was the case last year. Indeed, three consecutive years passed without any award being made, while last year no less than twelve persons received this distinction.

Following upon the holders of the Red Cross are the names of those British nurses who received the Distinguished Order of the Greek Red Cross from the Queen of the Hellenes, with the following Diploma:—"Her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes has been pleased to assign to Mistress — in recognition of services on behalf of those wounded in war during the year 1897, the Distinguished Order of the Red Cross. In evidence whereof this Diploma is given." No doubt any distinctions awarded to nurses will always receive mention in the *Nursing Directory*, as is right in a Directory under the auspices of a Society of Nurses.

(To be continued.)

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