

**The Matrons' Council.****A NEW MEMBER.**

FROM time to time we are able to give to our readers portraits of recently appointed members of the Matrons' Council. Our picture this week is of the Matron of the Allt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport, Monmouthshire, Miss Berta L. Greenlaw. Miss Greenlaw was trained at the General Infirmary, Worcester, from 1892—1895, after which she worked as a private nurse in connection with the Nottingham and Notts Nursing Association for about a year. In July, 1896, when the Allt-yr-yn Hospital was opened, she was appointed Sister and Deputy Matron, and in this capacity helped to organize and begin the work. After three-and-a-half years in this position, on the resignation of the Matron, Miss Greenlaw was appointed to that position in January last.

Miss Greenlaw is an enthusiast with regard to her profession. She writes, "I do not remember the time when I did not want to be a nurse. I was brought up with an invalid grandmother, and when I was eight years old I began to nurse her. Ten years ago, shortly before her death, our doctor died, and was succeeded by another whose wife was a trained nurse. She used to come and help me to wash my grandmother, and make her bed, and performed these duties so deftly and gently that while I was most grateful to her for her kindness to my dear relative, I almost envied, while I admired, her skill; and felt more and more determined to learn, when I could, how to be able to be of use in a sick room. We lived in the country, where no skilled nursing could be had, and where the old-fashioned prejudice against nurses was very strong. After my grandmother's death, my grandfather became entirely helpless, and quite imbecile. It was all so sad. He died in less than a year after his wife, and left me free to follow my desire to obtain training as a nurse. I have never regretted taking my own way in the matter, in spite of opposition. I am *proud* of my profession, and proud to call myself a working woman."

Miss Greenlaw is doing good work in trying to raise the standard of nursing, and to induce nurses to take a pride in their work, and an interest in the things pertaining to their professional life. She finds that as a Matron of a Fever Hospital, she has special difficulties to contend with, and would be interested to hear the opinion of her colleagues in similar positions of the question. The subject was ventilated at the Matrons' Council Conference in July, the opinion then expressed was that though it was difficult at all times to get nurses to take an interest in their professional concerns, yet in London the difficulties felt in

connection with this special branch of work, were not so acutely felt as in the country, as the posts offered by the Metropolitan Asylums Board were sufficiently desirable to attract the best class of nurses trained in a general hospital.

It was a matter of great regret to Miss Greenlaw that she was unable to be present at the Conference to share in the deliberations of her colleagues, and to benefit by their counsels.

We have heard from many of the country Members of the Matrons' Council of their disappointment at not being able to attend the Conference. Their inability to do so is easily understood, when we consider how arduous and exacting is a Matron's position, and how difficult it is for her to get away. It is always a pleasure to the London Members of the Matrons' Council that so many of their country colleagues make an effort to be

present year after year at the Annual Conference, and foregather from North, South, East and West, as well as from Ireland. The result of substituting the Annual Conference of two days for a quarterly Conference has been most gratifying and encouraging. We hope that next year her colleagues on the Council may have the pleasure of meeting Miss Greenlaw. The discussions, both formal and informal, which take place on professional matters at this Annual Meeting of London and Provincial Matrons are helpful and interesting to both, and are no doubt beneficial to the profession generally.



MISS BERTA L. GREENLAW,  
Matron of the Allt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport,  
Monmouthshire.

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