

Miss Maud Banfield,

**CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON COURSE
IN HOSPITAL ECONOMICS.**

The welcome presence in this country of Miss Maud Banfield, Superintendent of the Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia, and Chairman of the Course in Hospital Economics, Teachers' College, Columbia University in the City of New York, afforded an opportunity of obtaining some first hand information as to the working of this course. With pleasure I accepted a hospitable invitation to tea, and was promised that I should also receive some information about this unique educational course for nurses.

Miss Banfield was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and also holds the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society. After obtaining her certificate she found her way Westward, where since 1896 she has held the position of superintendent of the Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia — a position analogous to that of secretary in this country. She is a member of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses.

Miss Banfield speaks enthusiastically of America as a country of magnificent opportunities. They are just lying around on every side waiting for somebody to pick them up and make use of them. "Why would I be doing the things I am if it were not so?" she asks. "It is from no special capacity on my part, but just because on all sides things are waiting to be done, and one gets pushed into them."

I suggest that both factors may be at work, but she

shakes her head. "If you don't make an impression when you have been in America for a few years," she says, "it is because there is nothing in you to chalk a mark with."

The course in hospital economics has for its purpose the preparation of trained nurses, who have the necessary qualifications, for teachers in training schools for nurses. Its aim is eventually to obtain uniformity

in curriculum and training-school methods, which shall make the standing of a trained nurse practically the same from any training school connected with a general hospital in the United States, and also in the course of time to be able to supply thoroughly-trained superintendents to take charge of hospitals and training schools.

Of the value of the course to the students who pass through it Miss Banfield has no doubts. "The least important thing," she says—"though that is important enough—is what they learn. I always tell the students I don't mind if they don't learn anything, so that they will come and stay in the college. The whole influence of the life there is so valuable. It brings them into contact with students in other branches of work, broadens their interests and educates their minds. It is in fact of much the same educative value as a University course is to a man, and women

have far too few opportunities of this kind. At Columbia University the co-education plan is adopted, so the students meet both men and women.

The application forms for admission to the course are supplied by the chairman, and now that it is becoming better known this involves considerable correspondence. The distances in the United States are too great to admit of all the candidates being



Miss MAUD BANFIELD.

Superintendent of the Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia; Chairman of Committee on Course in Hospital Economics, Teachers' College, Columbia University.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)