

Appointments.

MATRON.

Miss Hettie Shorto has been appointed Matron of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. She was trained at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, and has held the position of Assistant Matron at the Royal Hospital, Portsmouth, where she also had entire charge of the Nurses' Home. There were fifty-five candidates for the appointment, sixteen of whom had had ophthalmic experience, and these naturally had the preference.

Miss Rose L. Shappere has been appointed Matron of the Western General Dispensary, Marylebone Road, N.W. She was trained at the Prince Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, and has held the position of Sister at the Perth Hospital and at the Kalgoorlie Mine Hospital in Western Australia, and of Night Sister at the Adelaide Hospital, South Australia. When war seemed imminent in South Africa she proceeded there and nursed the sick and wounded for a considerable time. She is one of the few members of the nursing profession who is of Jewish extraction.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Miss Elizabeth Shackelford has been appointed Assistant Matron at the Royal Hospital, Portsmouth. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and has also held appointments at the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, the Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, E., and the District Nursing Home, Liverpool.

SISTERS.

Miss Mary Barratt has been appointed Sister at the Union Infirmary, Kingston-on-Thames. She was trained for four and a-half years at the Middlesex Hospital, and for a year and a-half held the position of Sister at the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells. For the last ten months she has been engaged in private nursing.

Miss A. E. Tomkins has been appointed Sister at the Union Infirmary, Kingston-on-Thames. She was trained at the Infirmary, Isleworth, and for three years subsequently was engaged in private nursing at home and abroad. For six months she acted as temporary Sister of the children's ward at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford.

Miss Katherine Rowby has been appointed Ward Sister at the Fever Hospital, Darlington. She was trained at East Pitton Hospital, Leith, where she has also held the position of Sister. She has also been Sister-in-Charge of the Small-pox Hospital, Edmonton.

Miss Amy Freda Muller has been appointed Sister of the Children's Ward at the West Ham and East London Hospital, Stratford, in which institution she received her training.

Some Foundation Principles in the Nursing of Abdominal Operations.

By BEDFORD FENWICK, M.D.

It may fairly be said that in no department of surgery have greater improvements been made, nor have more brilliant successes been achieved, during the last twenty years, than in that of pelvic and abdominal operations. Surgical procedures are nowadays undertaken and carried through with the result that the patient is often completely cured of diseases which, only a few years ago, were considered irremediable. In no small measure, the success of these operations depends upon the after-care and nursing which such patients receive. Indeed, it would be difficult, on any other ground, to explain the differences shown in the statistics of different operators and at different hospitals. Taking a series of, say, three or four hundred cases, every operator would meet with a certain number of operations involving extreme difficulty and danger and a certain other number of more simple cases; so that the average risk of an operation to the patient's life would probably be the same for every surgeon as spread over each large series of cases. At the present day, those who devote themselves chiefly to abdominal surgery must possess considerable technical dexterity and special knowledge of, and experience in dealing with, the many critical difficulties which occur in the course of such operations. In other words, within a very narrow margin, the average mortality due to the operations themselves amongst different abdominal surgeons might be expected to be almost the same for all. But as there are somewhat wide differences in their results in practice, the reason must be found—not so much in the operator or in the operation itself as in the nursing which the patient subsequently receives.

This point is emphasised, because it would be difficult to exaggerate its extreme importance. To some extent it also explains the demand which has arisen within the last few months for special examinations to be held, and special certificates given to those who devote themselves to the nursing of gynaecological cases—a large proportion of abdominal operations being associated with the diseases of women.

There are several principles, then, upon which abdominal nursing must be based. The first of these is that absolute cleanliness, both of the patient and of her surroundings, must be obtained. And by this is meant, not so much the use of strong antiseptics and germicides, as the free use of soap and water. The careful preparation of the operation room, of the patient, and of the instruments to be used become of vital importance. The

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