

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE IRISH  
NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

Miss Bridget M. Kelly, Matron of Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin (whose portrait we print on this page), has been unanimously elected President of the Irish Nurses' Association. We heartily congratulate the Society upon its choice and Miss Kelly on her election to this important position.

Miss Kelly is an Irish lady, having been born in the County Roscommon, where her father held an honourable official position.

Her connection with Dr. Steevens' Hospital dates back to 1885, when she entered the

hospital for training. With the exception of a short period spent at the Jervis Street Hospital, where she started the training under the nuns, Miss Kelly has been connected with Dr. Steevens' Hospital in various capacities throughout the whole of her nursing career, and she was appointed its Matron in 1893. Her many years of service on its behalf are keenly

appreciated by those with whom she has been brought in contact, as the address presented to her recently on the occasion of the celebration of her twentieth year of nursing work plainly shows. The members of the nursing staff of Dr. Steeven's Hospital and a number of her intimate friends availed themselves of the opportunity to express their high appreciation of the qualities which have endeared Miss Kelly to a large circle of friends. The address states that

since she came amongst them as Matron, by her unflinching courtesy, kindness, and attention Miss Kelly has endeared herself to all with whom she came in contact. These are qualities which cannot fail to be of great value in the President of the Irish Nurses' National Association.

Miss Kelly has found time, as Matron of a large hospital, to take part in public nursing work, more especially in regard to the State Registration of Trained Nurses, upon which subject she gave an eloquent address to the Irish Nurses' Association last October. She has, therefore, identified herself with those

Matrons who have associated themselves together for the benefit of the profession as a whole, and in this way has obtained the confidence of Irish nurses. As President of their Association her talents as a fluent speaker will find scope, and will no doubt be put to good account.

The hospital of which Miss Kelly is Matron is an interesting one, with a romantic his-



MISS BRIDGET M. KELLY.  
*President Irish Nurses' Association.*

Madam Steevens' Hospital, as it was first called, is the oldest public hospital in Dublin, having been founded by Madam Grissel Steevens in 1720—"the medical fraternity," says one of its historians, "has since rechristened and emasculated it!"

Madam Steevens, according to this same historian (Mr. Cahir Healy) in the *Irish Independent*, was the daughter of a Royalist English clergyman, who was compelled to flee from England, having preached against Cromwell.

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