

The Retirement of Miss Medill.

Great regret is felt at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, a regret which will be shared by many other friends, at the retirement of the Matron, Miss Medill, after a service of twenty-one years.

The fact was alluded to by the Chairman, Mr. H. A. Harben, at the General Meeting of the Paddington Branch of the St. Mary's Hospital Ladies' Association, when both he and Lady Dimsdale, President of the Association, expressed high appreciation of Miss Medill's great services to the hospital and deep regret at her retirement, expressions which were very warmly endorsed by the large gathering of friends of the hospital present on the occasion.

Miss Medill, who received her nursing training at the Middlesex Hospital, became Sister at St. Bartholomew's and then Lady Superintendent of the East London Hospital for Children. After holding the latter position for three years, she was appointed in March, 1885, to the important post she is now relinquishing.

Some idea of the changes in hospital nursing which have taken place in that period may be obtained from the mere comparison of the numerical strength of the nursing staff of St. Mary's when Miss Medill was appointed and at the present time.

Then a staff of forty-nine sisters and thirty-one nurses was thought sufficient to nurse 244 beds, now for 281 beds the staff numbers 108—eighteen Sisters and acting Sisters and ninety nurses, equal to one nurse to less than $2\frac{3}{4}$ beds, and even this proportion is felt to be inadequate.

It is unnecessary to point out to those who are familiar with nursing in the great hospitals of London that this does not represent a less laborious lot for the nurse, on the contrary, the exigencies of modern treatment, the higher standard of efficiency now prevailing, and the high pressure at which most of our hospitals are worked renders the strain on the individual nurse as severe as ever.

A correspondent who knows Miss Medill and her work well writes:—

"Throughout this period of development Miss Medill has kept before her nurses the highest ideals and has devotedly laboured to advance their interests and to secure their well-being in every way.

"And now, having seen her nurses housed in their new Home in the Clarence Wing, having taken the opportunity which this afforded to secure the removal of many disadvantages under which they formerly laboured,

the result directly and indirectly of the poor accommodation hitherto available for them, in short having seen a better state of things inaugurated, Miss Medill has decided to resign her position, to the deep regret of all with whom she has been associated—the Board of Management, the Medical Staff, her colleagues in administrative work and above all of her nurses the recipient on all hands of tributes of admiration for the whole-hearted devotion with which she has served the hospital she loves so well."

We are glad to know that Miss Medill's resignation is not caused by ill-health. In the past she was a good worker in the cause of State Registration and now that she will have leisure we hope that she will find time to help again.

International News.

The February issue of *Una* brings with it the announcement of the formation of an Australasian Massage Society, which has already held its first meeting, drawn up a constitution, and elected its officers. The first President of the Association is Dr. Springthorpe.

Our contemporary, in extending a welcome to the new Association, says that "the establishment of a system of registration of recognised masseurs and masseuses throughout the Commonwealth is a movement which should appeal alike to the medical profession, to the public, and to those practitioners of massage who desire that their honourable and humanitarian calling should be developed on scientific and ethical principles."

It continues:—"Nor so far as regards massage in this country has the movement for its establishment on a satisfactory footing been brought about too soon, for while we can point with great satisfaction to our educated and qualified masseurs and masseuses in *bonâ fide* practice, it is unfortunately true that in the hands of various ignorant and unprincipled individuals 'massage' has for a long time past been associated with the worst forms of charlatanism—with so-called clairvoyants, palmists, futurists, and other pseudo-scientific philanthropists whose brazen growth is fostered by the credulity of that section of the public which gives them, rather than the trained and educated professional, its confidence and its ailments. It is a reasonable anticipation that the Australasian Massage Association will counteract much of the evil which results from unchecked ignorance and fraud."

A question of considerable interest and importance was discussed at the last meeting of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Asso-

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