

Nurses of Note.

MISS MEDILL.

Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

No one visiting St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, can fail to realise that the Matron is a most popular official, and that her resignation has caused genuine regret to the officials who work with her, while the members of the nursing staff cannot express in adequate language their sense of their coming loss.

The Secretary, Mr. Thomas Ryan, regards the impending change as involving an irreparable loss to the institution; from a more personal point of view he also greatly regrets it. It is not invariable for the Matron and secretary of an institution to "get on," but the relations of these officials at St. Mary's are of a much more cordial nature. Miss Medill has held the post of Matron for twenty-one years, Mr. Ryan that of secretary for but a few years less, and during the whole of that period the friendliest relations have been maintained. Indeed, the dominant note amongst the officials has been that of a happy family rather than the official one. As for the nurses they say they cannot bear to think of St. Mary's without "Matron," whose sympathy and gentleness of nature has won all their hearts. In Miss Medill they have a Matron interested in everything that interests them, and they feel that her departure will involve a complete break-up of their happy home. They regard their loss as a real calamity.

During Miss Medill's term of office many changes have necessarily been made, the new quarters for the nurses being one of the more recent. These occupy the top floors of the Clarence Wing, overlooking Praed Street, high enough up for the constant traffic to and from Paddington Station close by not to be felt unduly insistent. Very pleasant these quarters are. Each nurse has a bedroom to herself, and

there is an ample supply of bath rooms, a fact which will be appreciated by nurses who trained years ago when bath rooms were not so plentiful, and when, as soon as one was secured, it was safe to assume that there would be a battering at the door, and the next would-be occupant would demand "how soon will you be out of the bath, nurse?" in somewhat injured tones, usually followed by a very urgent injunction to "hurry up." St. Mary's nurses know none of these troubles nowadays.

A luxury, but surely a necessity also, are the arrangements made on each floor for shampooing the hair, a large basin being fitted with all the necessary appliances, so that the trouble and expense of a visit to the hairdresser's can be dispensed with, a thorough shampoo being obtainable in the nurses' own quarters.

Another arrangement which gives universal satisfaction is that on each floor there is a small room where a kettle can be boiled and tea things washed up; thus the indispensable cup of tea can be obtained at any hour of the day or night.

The staff nurses and probationers have separate sitting-rooms, an arrangement which conduces not only to a freedom from restraint when off duty, but also to good discipline in the wards.

Each room is provided with a piano, that in the staff nurses' sitting-room being an exceptionally fine one, presented by one of the great Rothschild family.

Miss Medill is not leaving until October, as the Committee expressed the hope that she would not leave till the summer holidays were over, and to this she has acceded.

It is not yet definitely known what Miss Medill will do when she leaves St. Mary's, but it is quite certain that an idle life will not content her, for she is in good health and full of vigour. It is rumoured that after taking a rest she will settle down in Paddington and work amongst the poor, by whom she is well known and loved.



MISS MEDILL.

Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)