

Universities Mission to Central Africa, and was appointed Matron of the Zanzibar Hospital.

In whatever sphere of nursing Margaret Breay was engaged, she appeared specially adapted for the responsibility: thus, in Zanzibar, her extraordinary influence with the natives was paramount, by some means her magnetic sympathy got "under the skin" whatever its tone. With coloured people she was the "white lady," someone quite apart. Here, in Africa, a life's work, for which she was specially adapted, lay before her; but alas! in 18 months, ravaged with malaria, in an almost dying condition, she was ordered home, as nearly broken-hearted as a human being could be. So devoted was she to the care of the natives that in after days we prophesied that "when she died, she would return to Zanzibar!" Who knows?

Health was restored in England, and after 10 years' active nursing her monumental work as a publicist for the Nursing Profession throughout the world began.

#### Brilliant Journalistic Career.

In the year 1896 we entered into association as Editor and Assistant Editor of the *Nursing Record*, later the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, during which time we worked together almost daily for 40 years—and it was in this sphere that her wonderful character and talents found their full scope. A casual acquaintance might not have guessed from her retiring and unobtrusive manner the great intellect and cultured intelligence that lay behind it, or the fund of information which it concealed. Her long training in self-discipline, from which emanated the selflessness which characterised her, her almost fierce loyalty and devotion to principle and to her friends, her uncomplaining patience and tenacity of purpose, her boundless generosity, were the splendid gifts spent daily in support of the profession she loved and its honour, which she did so much to secure.

#### Nursing Organisation.

In the organisation of the Nursing Profession Margaret Breay took an active part in every great movement

for the uplift of nursing and the emancipation and organisation of the trained nurse.

An early member of the British Nurses' Association, granted the prefix Royal in 1891, she worked ardently for its incorporation by Royal Charter, an honour granted after an exhaustive enquiry by the Privy Council in 1893, and she was one of the Signatories to its Incorporation Clause headed by Her Royal Highness the late Princess Christian, Princess of Great Britain and Ireland.

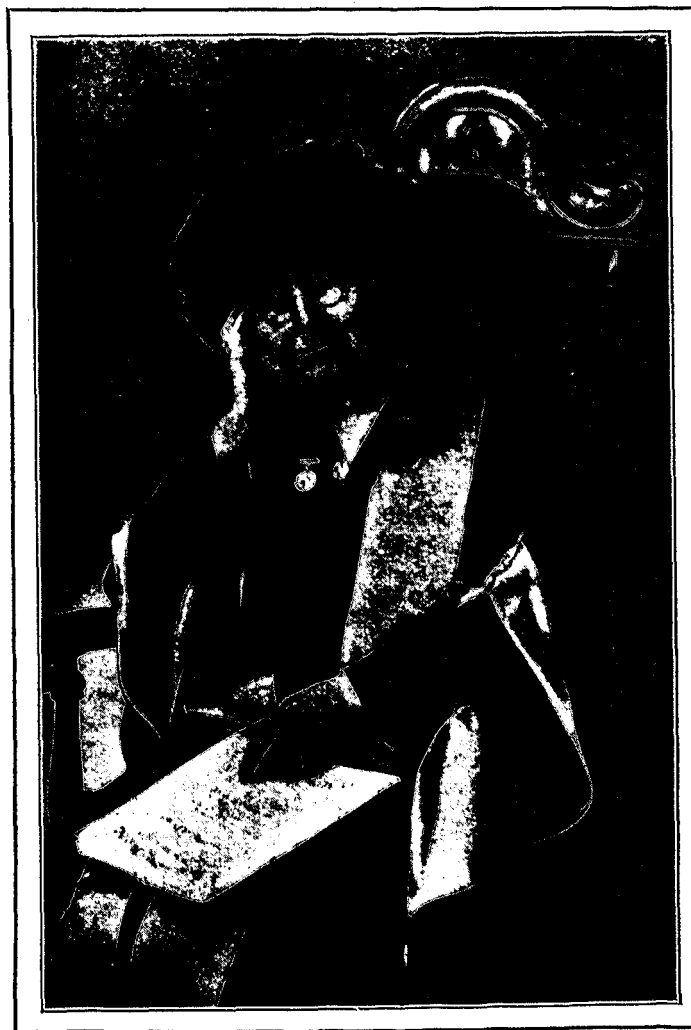
#### International Spirit.

She took an active part in the organisation of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and was present at the historic meeting in London on July 1st, 1899, when the foundation of the International Council of Nurses was inaugurated—in the organisation of which she took an active part until its meeting in London in 1937—having acted as Hon. Treasurer from 1904 to 1925. She attended and reported its meetings in London, 1899, 1900; Berlin, 1904; Paris, 1907; London, 1909; Cologne, 1912; Copenhagen, 1922; Helsingfors, 1925; Montreal, 1929, when she represented the Founder and delivered the Watchword; and lastly London, 1937.

Skilled journalist as she became, Margaret Breay's expert reports of these historic meetings are secured for the benefit of future generations in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and incorporated in the "History of the International Council of Nurses, 1899-1925." A brilliant epitome of the work of the Council for that period which she helped to compile.

The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, founded by Isla Stewart, of which she was a Founder Member, was warmly welcomed by Margaret Breay, and as Hon. Treasurer of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain she watched with deep interest the formation of Leagues and Associations of Nurses in England and Scotland, now numbering 51, grouped in this great National Council—which for so many years, by careful financial supervision, has been kept solvent on infinitesimal subscriptions.

At the inauguration of the British College of Nurses



MISS MARGARET BREAY, S.R.N., S.C.M., F.B.G.N.  
First Vice-President for Life, British College of Nurses,  
1926-1939.

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