

Nurses of Note.

MISS CASSANDRA M. BEACHCROFT.

*Lady Superintendent of the County Hospital, Lincoln;
Vice-Chairman of the Matrons' Council.*

MISS CASSANDRA M. BEACHCROFT, who has lately been elected one of the three Vice-Chairmen of the Matrons' Council, has, by her brilliant professional career, well earned the position which her colleagues have unanimously accorded her, and which by her personal characteristics she is so pre-eminently fitted to adorn. Miss C. M. Beachcroft, was born in London, and received a most careful education both at home and abroad. She is the eldest daughter of the late George Beachcroft, Esq., of Headlam Hall. On both sides of her parentage she has the advantage of worthy ancestry, her mother having been a member of the Peckham family of the old Palace of Bekesbourne, near Canterbury, a lineal descendant of Archbishop Peckham, of that See, in the reign of King Edward III., and who lies buried in Canterbury Cathedral. Miss Beachcroft had always a great desire to be a Nurse, and entered the London Hospital as a Lady Probationer in April, 1879, where she proved during her year's training her exceptional aptitude for her work and her remarkable administrative ability; she was in consequence promoted in 1880 to be Sister of the Rachel Wards, a large medical division containing fifty-six beds, and where she won for herself the reputation for untiring devotion to duty which has characterised her whole nursing career. Here she superintended the nursing of patients for some of the leading physicians in London, namely, Dr. Hughlings Jackson, Dr. Samuel Fenwick, Dr. Sutton, Dr. Stephen Mackenzie, and Dr. Turner, and gained much experience in the best methods of treatment then in vogue.

In 1881, owing to increased work, in consequence of the principal Staff Nurse of Rachel Ward being disabled by a severe attack of typhoid fever, and her personal devotion in attending upon her, Sister Rachel herself contracted this terrible disease in its most severe form, and for many weeks lay between life and death. Happily her valuable life was spared, and upon recovery she was appointed to a less laborious charge, as Sister of the Hope Ward at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where she worked until 1884, the much-valued Sister of patients under the care of Dr. James Andrew and Sir Dyce Duckworth. In 1884, Miss Beachcroft was

the selected candidate, from many applicants, for the Matronship of the County Hospital, Lincoln—one of our most perfect county hospitals, which contains 125 beds, and is built upon the model of St. Thomas's Hospital, in five brick pavilions, on a magnificent site on the hill, in spacious grounds facing due south, and just beyond the celebrated Minster, and overlooking miles of open country.

Here Miss Beachcroft leads a very busy and happy life, having during her ten years' residence gained the confidence and respect of the Committee, Medical Staff and supporters of the Institution. She is a practical Superintendent of Nursing, accompanying the Visiting Staff round the wards during their visits, attending operations in the theatre, and taking a personal interest in the training of the probationers.

Miss Beachcroft, as will be imagined, has the professional instinct strongly developed, and she was one of the foundation members (being No. 15) of the British Nurses' Association in 1887, and has been consistently from its inception one of its firmest supporters and most valuable members. She has sat on its Executive Committee and Council, and was one of the honoured signatories for the Royal Charter 1892, and we feel sure that her colleagues will now rejoice that she has consented to undertake still further public work upon the behalf of a profession of which she is so distinguished a member, by acceding to their request that she should accept the position of Vice-Chairman of the Matrons' Council, a body which will doubtless in the future be able to effect very real and beneficent results in the further development of the Nursing profession. The Council occupies ground which hitherto has been left vacant by all previous organizations. Much has been done in many ways for the rank and file of the profession, but no effort has hitherto been made to draw its leaders together for mutual counsel and advice. The rapid growth in numbers and influence of the Matrons' Council shows how much needed such an organization has been. Our engraving is copied from a photograph taken by Mr. George Hadley, 36, Castle Hill, Lincoln.



In future we propose to give a biographical sketch and portrait of a well-known worker in the Nursing world, in the first issue of the NURSING RECORD for each month. The subject of our sketch on May 4th will be Miss HUGHES, Matron of the Kensington Infirmary and Vice-Chairman of the Matrons' Council.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)