

Nurses of Note.

MISS MARTHA D. FARQUHARSON,

Matron of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Australia.

MISS MARTHA DURWARD FARQUHARSON, the Matron of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Australia, whose portrait we are pleased to give this week to our readers, has been a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association since 1892.

Miss Farquharson was trained under the able direction of Miss Hannen at the Crumpsall Infirmary at Manchester, and later worked at the Deaconess' Nursing Home in connection with the Mildmay Mission.

From her training and the work she has accomplished in Australia, since she first went as Matron to the Coast Hospital, Sydney, in 1884, Miss Farquharson is deservedly classed among "Nurses of Note." It is very satisfactory to feel that our "Sisters across the Seas" are joining hands and hearts in sympathetic accord with the spirit of reform and progress in nursing methods, which has passed like a strong tidal wave over the mother country.

Miss Farquharson is an earnest advocate of a high professional standard, and has done much to animate the nursing staffs with whom she has worked with an ambition for all that is best in their calling; and the outcome of her work, and the work of others who are leaders in the Colonial Hospital world, has given an impetus towards a longer and a better system of training than would have been thought possible in Australia some few years since.

In 1885 the Executive Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association elected Miss Farqu-

harson Local Secretary for Victoria, this being the first appointment of the kind made by the Association in the Colonies, and with so much tact and energy has Miss Farquharson performed her duties, that it will be seen from another column that there is a strong desire on the part of some Nurses in Sydney that a local centre of the Royal British Nurses' Association should be established there. This desire for co-operation and organisation should find room for healthy growth and development in the Colonies, for newer countries have fewer prejudices and larger ideas.

It will be readily understood that a woman with Miss Farquharson's advanced views on the professionalism of Nurses must have encountered difficulties, which have needed courage and patience to overcome. In a new country, although as we remarked, there are fewer prejudices met with, there are other difficulties which stand in the way of Hospital discipline and reform. To begin with, there is the labour question which throws so much additional work and responsibility on the matron who must superintend the domestic departments of the Hospital. And another bar to Nursing progress lies in the fact that ladies of cultivation and re-



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finement are not so ready in the Colonies as in England to undergo the hardships entailed by Hospital training. But it is certain that Miss Farquharson has found the key to the solution of these difficulties, and that she has made herself most popular and much respected in every branch of work with which she has associated herself in Australia.

Miss Farquharson has been elected an honorary member of the Matrons' Council, and she is thus at the present time the only member in Australia of this progressive and broad-minded Society.

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