

Nurses of Note.

MISS L. L. DOCK,

Late Superintendent of the Cook County Hospital at Chicago.

IT is with sincere regret that we are unable to present to our readers a portrait of this great American Nurse, as she is one of those unique persons who have never been photographed.

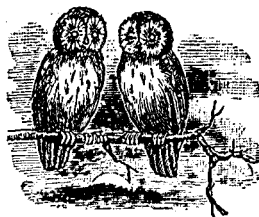
Miss Lavinia L. Dock has lately done British Matrons the honour of accepting the honorary membership of our Matrons' Council, and a few notes of her Nursing career will be of interest to our readers. Miss Dock graduated in the celebrated Nurse Training School in connection with the Bellevue Hospital, New York City. She is fortunately not compelled to consider her work from a financial standpoint, and her idea has been to gain as wide an experience of Nursing methods and politics as possible. She therefore at the end of her training accepted the Night Superintendency at Bellevue for a year, followed by experience in Private Nursing, and by a year of District Nursing in New York. Miss Dock went to Jacksonville as a Nurse at the time of the great epidemic of yellow fever—and again at the time of the great flood at Johnstown, when the viaduct burst its bounds and swept away the town, Miss Dock was to be found in the Tent Hospitals under the auspices of the Red Cross. For the next three years she worked as Assistant to Miss Isabel Hampton (now Mrs. Hunter Robb) in the celebrated Nursing School at Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, U.S.A., and was then appointed Superintendent of the Illinois Training School for Nurses at Chicago, where she proved herself not only a splendid Superintendent, but a woman of strong character—inspired with principles which expediency would not permit her to deny. Here Miss Dock found that system in vogue which we regret is still to be found flourishing in some of our great London Hospitals—namely, the most unjust system of sending out Probationers as private Nurses to nurse the sick before they have completed the term of three years' training and gained their certificate. Miss Dock, unlike her less scrupulous English sisters, would not condone this arrangement—she objected to the system as unjust and unfair to Nurses and patients; and as the governing body of the Illinois Training School for Nurses was not sufficiently progressive to be guided by the high standard of efficiency desired by their Superintendent, she resigned her position rather than condone a system she considered wrong.

This is the type of woman needed on both sides of the Atlantic, if the present anomalous condition of Nursing education is to be organised on lines worthy of a great profession.

The integrity and ability of Miss Lavinia Dock are duly recognised by her colleagues, and it is to her that has been entrusted by her fellow Superintendents the onerous task of presenting to them at the forthcoming convention at Philadelphia, on February 12th and 13th, a paper, entitled, "A National Association for Nurses and its Legal Organization." This is a high honour, and we have no doubt that a woman inspired as Miss Dock is with the highest ideal of what a Nurse should be, and who possesses, as she does, so keen a sense of responsibility in dealing with the

public, will present an eminently workmanlike scheme, which, if adopted, will do much to further the professional advancement of trained Nursing in the States, and to inspire the Nurses with keen professional ardour. We have had the pleasure and privilege of expressing our opinion on the subject to Miss Dock, and of pointing out to her where the difficulties of organization have arisen in connection with the Royal British Nurses' Association. We can only hope that our American colleagues will benefit by avoiding our mistakes, and wish them God speed in the great work which they are about to inaugurate.

Matrons in Council.



THE next Conference of the Matrons' Council will take place on the 23rd inst., at 8.30 p.m., in the Medical Society's Rooms, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, when Dr. Bedford Fenwick will read

a Paper on the "Prospects and Principles of Legislation for Nurses." Admittance is to non-members. Medical men are cordially invited to be present.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Council will be held at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, at 3 p.m., on the same date.

The Registered Nurses' Society.



THE Meeting of the Committee took place on Tuesday, the 7th inst., at 5 p.m., at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, when a most satisfactory Report was presented. The balance sheet showed an appreciable increase of receipts over any month since the inception of the Society.

Miss Sadlier, Miss Matthew-Lannowe and Mrs. McEwen were duly elected members after three months' probation, and the application of Miss Jordan was accepted on the usual term of probation. The resignation of Miss A. Smedley was received with regret upon her appointment as Charge Nurse at the Western Fever Hospital, as was the resignation of Miss L. Bousfield upon her approaching marriage.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Hon. Superintendent, was deputed to attend, as the official delegate of the Society, the Conference convened by the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association—to discuss the subject of State Registration of Trained Nurses.

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